

FIGHT RACISM!

FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

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Thatcher Botha WANTED FOR MURDER

Butcher of Black people, virulent anti-communist, Prime Minister of South Africa, PW Botha intends to visit London on 2 June for talks with butcher of Irish people, virulent anti-communist, fellow racist, Prime Minister Thatcher. This top level meeting between apartheid rulers and British imperialist leaders is designed to consolidate their alliance against the revolutionary forces in Southern Africa. The invitation to Botha is part of imperialism's strategy, in Thatcher's own words 'to end the isolation of South Africa in world affairs'. In 1979 she 'looked forward' to such an eventuality. Botha's visit is a challenge to all anti-apartheid and anti-racist forces in Britain. We must fight to stop this visit.

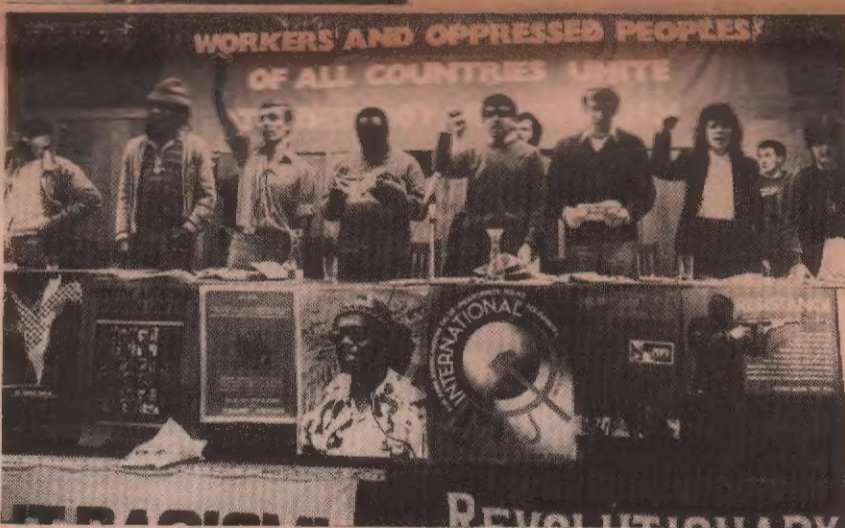


The Thatcher-Botha meeting, will be a meeting of racists and criminals. Botha leads a fascist regime in which the white majority enjoy the highest standard of living in the world, whilst the black majority is forced to live in appalling poverty, oppressed by racist laws which preserve white privilege. The leaders of the black majority are detained, tortured, imprisoned and murdered, their trade unions are suppressed and millions have been forced into bantustan concentration camps. Thatcher leads a government which murdered ten Irish hunger strikers and continues to oppress Republicans in the north of Ireland, which turned its police against black and white youth who rose up against racism and police harassment in 1981, and today is using the same police methods against the miners.

Since 1979 British and US imperialism have steadily increased their support for South Africa in order to give it continued on page 2



MINERS FIGHT POLICE & SCABS



ANTI IMPERIALIST WEEKEND - An audience of 300 people at Conway Hall enjoyed speeches from liberation movements and anti-racist groups from all over the world. See pages 7,8,9 and 10.

The miners' strike, now entering its ninth week, continues to demonstrate the growing polarisation in the organised working class movement as the fight of striking miners to defend their jobs reaches new levels of bitterness and confrontation. The division in the NUM between the miners whose jobs are under threat and the more privileged miners, particularly in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, has deepened. This was dramatically demonstrated on 1 May when thousands of scab Nottinghamshire miners, protected by mass ranks of police, demonstrated outside their own NUM area office for the 'right to work'. They were confronted by around 2,000 striking miners who had evaded police roadblocks to reach the area office. Bricks and other missiles were exchanged between the two sides. This confrontation shows how deep the split in the NUM has become.

Miners fight on

80% of miners are still fighting on, determined, despite increasing hardship, to go on to the bitter end. 120-130 pits are closed and the rest, some 45-55, are kept wholly or partly open by scab miners protected by a massive police operation directed from Scotland Yard. In particular the majority of the 34,000 Nottinghamshire miners, earning some £40-£100 a week more in bonuses than miners in other areas, have turned their backs on their brothers whose jobs are under immediate threat from MacGregor's announcement of 20,000 redundancies. On 1 May the bosses' men of Nottinghamshire were actually given the day off on full pay by the NCB to demonstrate their reactionary views at their regional union headquarters, and to demand the resignation of their leaders who had ordered them not to cross picket lines. In the last general election, Sherwood parliamentary constituency which contains some of the most heavily picketed Nottinghamshire pits - Olleston, Thoresby, Bilsborough, Blythburgh and Clifton - returned a Tory MP - a reflection of the relatively high earnings and job security in this area. The current secretary of the Sherwood Labour Party is a miner - he is scabbing.

Against the betrayal of 20% of their fellow workers and against a continuous barrage of propaganda from the government, the media and, not least, the Labour Party leaders, the miners, under Scargill's leadership, have decisively

rejected a national ballot. 'Stick a ballot, stick a ballot, stick a ballot up your arse...' is one of the derisive themes of striking miners. As miners have said time and again: 'We have voted with our feet. Those who want a ballot want to vote against a strike.' And as a South Yorkshire miner said to FRFI 'what right does a man have to vote me out of a job?'. The continuing determination of the striking miners, since the delegate conference of 19 April rejected a national ballot and called for national strike action, was shown on 2 May by the mass picket of over 10,000 at Harworth colliery. That even this display of strength failed to close the pit indicates the scale of the task ahead.

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British dirty tricks exposed

British imperialism can rule Ireland only by using methods of terror - armed occupation, rigged juryless courts, beatings and murder. Recent revelations by a former British Army Intelligence Officer, Captain Fred Holroyd, confirm this truth again. He has exposed details of the foul methods used by the British Army in Ireland (in a series written by Duncan Campbell in the New Statesman). His revelations include: the use of Army undercover assassination squads to murder known Republicans; collaboration between the Army and loyalist murder gangs; the use of hired kidnappers to capture Republicans in the Twenty Six Counties and bring them to the Six Counties; the use of informers and agents provocateurs; the extensive operations of the British Army inside the Twenty Six Counties.

Irish people and their supporters in Britain have known of such operations for years and have publicised and campaigned against them. Such protests have been met with bland denials from successive British governments who

claim that the British Army is in Ireland to 'defend democracy'. Now, from a loyal and dedicated servant of imperialism, comes ample confirmation that British democracy in Ireland is a reign of terror.

Holroyd was an Intelligence Officer in the Six Counties in 1974 and 1975. He was in the thick of the British Army's dirty tricks department and was on undercover attachment to the RUC Special Branch. Amongst the cases he reports is that of Captain Robert Nairac, an SAS and M16 operative who was executed by the IRA in 1977. Nairac told Holroyd that he and two other men had carried out an undercover assassination in the Twenty Six Counties. He gave Holroyd details of the operation in which they had travelled to a remote farmhouse, broken in and shot dead a well-known Republican, John Francis Green. Nairac even gave Holroyd a Polaroid photo of Green's blood soaked body. His account of the assassination ties in with all the evidence known to the RUC.

Holroyd handed over the photo and other details to the RUC who have since put him under great pressure to withdraw the murder accusation against Nairac. Army officers are now claiming that Nairac was a braggart and perhaps wasn't in the SAS at all - a strange continued on page 13

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MINERS FIGHT POLICE AND SCABS

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As we argued in FRFI 38 'the fundamental feature of this strike is the split in the working class movement'. Two issues in particular demonstrate the significance of this split: the conflict at Ravenscraig steel works and the response of the Labour Party to the miners' strike.

Ravenscraig

At Ravenscraig the so-called 'triple alliance' of coal, steel and rail unions fell apart in its first real test. Steel workers at the plant on 2 May, following the Scottish NUM decision to curtail coal supplies to Ravenscraig, agreed to use coal brought into the plant by strike-breaking lorry drivers. Ravenscraig shop stewards justified this scabbing as a 'sad and daunting' decision to put their own jobs before those of the miners on strike. Such treachery was encouraged by ISTC leader Bill Sirs, who said on 30 March 'I am not here to see the steel industry crucified on someone else's altar' (see FRFI 38). The lorry drivers have so far not responded to an indecisive TGWU instruction to respect the miners' picket line. The outcome of this conflict at Ravenscraig will have a crucial effect on the course of the strike. Of course, it was MacGregor who butchered the steel industry, leaving, as one miner put it 'a bunch of frightened men'. Instead of drawing together to fight the butchery of a related industry, ISTC leaders, in particular Bill Sirs, have done everything in their power to blame striking miners for future lost steel jobs! Recommending their members to work normally, ISTC leaders have fought to maintain coal imports while trying to deflect attention from

NUM headquarters, Sammy Thompson, Vice President of Yorkshire NUM, came out with a bitter attack on Kinnock who, he said, had refused to share a platform with him at a meeting in Bolton. 'I'm not getting on the same platform as a Yorkshire miner' said Kinnock. This disgusting statement reflects the distance which Kinnock and friends feel it necessary to keep from striking miners who have found out that to merely set out on the road to a picket now involves breaking the law. Kinnock has not only called for a national ballot but has also demanded that the NUM increase coal supplies to Ravenscraig. On both issues Kinnock has lined up with those workers undermining the miners' strike. Kinnock, Hattersley, Kaufmann and Healey have spent most of their energies in the last two weeks trying to outdo the Tories over how many teams of SAS they would have sent into the Libyan Embassy. They are only concerned to build their careers and backing the miners, they believe, will not help them in their task. At the same time, the Labour NEC has launched a 50p levy per member per week for the miners. Coming some seven weeks into the dispute, for leaders like Kinnock, this is a sop to cover the shame of their betrayal.

Hardship grows

Every means of attack has been brought against the striking miners and their families—to force them into submission. An imaginary £15 a week strike pay which miners *do not* receive from the NUM, is deducted from benefit paid to strikers' families. An average family receives about £20 a week and a single man nothing at all. One Barnsley family stated that due to the wife's £12 a week part-time job, only £4.50 a week benefit was being paid. The most recent turn of the screw is the instruction to the DHSS to deduct from benefit any loans that have been made by local authorities to assist miners' families with electricity and gas bills. In Barnsley a young miner is due to be evicted by the building society.

places like Consett, themselves devastated by unemployment.

Police keep pits open

While Thatcher and Co refuse to raise subsidies to keep miners in jobs, they are happy to pay the political price of at least £2m per week for policing to defeat the strike. Nottinghamshire County Council has already spent £13.9m of its £42m annual police budget. Only the massive scale of the centralised police operation has kept the working pits open. The ruling class is using the lessons learned in Ireland and during the 1981 uprisings. Police have even been flown by Boeing Jet from Hampshire to Nottinghamshire, at a cost of £10,000, to provide reinforcements. As Tony Benn stated in Parliament 'I believe that what the government has done is to bring the police tactics of Northern Ireland into the heart of Britain'. More and more brazenly the police have employed road blocks, political questioning, beatings, illegal fingerprinting and photographing, snatch squads, phone-taps, and infiltration. As stated in FRFI 38,

those workers, such as the striking miners, forced to fight to survive, has widened. Such a polarisation is inevitable.

The British middle class left's position on this issue, as on all others, reflects its class position. They refuse to recognise the political reality of a working class divided by privilege and sectionalism. So *Socialist Worker* at first believed that the solution to 'disunity' was more and better political argument and propaganda by rank and file workers directed at the Nottingham rank and file miners. Now after many weeks of harsh reality proving them wrong they are reduced to saying:

'It will not be easy to win them (Nottingham miners) for the strike, and it would be folly to stake the whole future of the strike on doing so.'

The strike can still be made to bite, even if a substantial number of Notts miners continue to scab—but only if picketting is stepped up generally—outside power stations, steel works, coal and coke depots. (*Socialist Worker* 5 May 1984).

'Let MacGregor carry on with his steaks, we'll carry on with our baked beans to the end.'

there can be no doubt that Kenneth Newman, drawing on his terrorising experience gained in the Six Counties of Ireland, is directing this police operation against the miners. The number of arrests had climbed to 1,479 by 2 May with many miners being forced to accept bail conditions forbidding them to go near NCB premises. Four miners, who had already been arrested and bailed on these conditions, were rearrested for merely driving down the M1, and charged with breach of the peace. The magistrate refused bail and they were remanded in Lincoln prison. A picket of hundreds of miners was told by the prison governor that the four were being treated like any other prisoners. What an assurance!

Miners are being beaten up daily by the police. 70 were beaten up in a truncheon attack in Sheffield after the 10,000 strong rally outside the NUM headquarters on 19 April. As one young Yorkshire miner told FRFI 'The Mets have been sent to kick the shit out of us'. Union leaders have been arrested—the President and Vice-President of Derbyshire NUM, and Jim Colgan, Midlands general secretary who was detained and beaten, and only released when police found out who he was. At Bevercotes, Nottingham, a Scottish miner was picked up by the police, taken into the woods and beaten up. He was left with badly bruised legs and cracked ribs. The police said to him 'if we can't get you one way, we'll get you another' (*Socialist Worker*).

The South Wales Chief Constable has admitted using infiltrators, and a policeman dressed as a miner was shown on ITN news pointing out people to be arrested. One South Wales coach firm operator Clayton Jones, after receiving a call from the local NUM about a coach, was phoned by Derbyshire police asking him for the precise destination! The Post Office Engineers Union has said that Home Office denials of phone tapping are 'laughable'. Groups of miners have been interrogated by police on their political views—would they vote Conservative or Communist? Did they vote for Scargill? Yet again the police are playing a directly political role.

The massive police operation and systematic brutality against striking miners is exposing to many trade unionists the brutal reality of the British imperialist ruling class and its state—a reality long recognised by black workers, Irish workers and others who have suffered imperialist repression and racism. The scale of the state's attack on the miners results from the refusal of the striking miners to allow their fight to be sabotaged by the more privileged sections of their own union or by the treachery of other sections of the Labour and trade union movement. And as the struggle has gone on, the split in the working class movement, between those who put their narrow sectional interests before the interests of the working class as a whole and

When reality contradicts their middle class idealism the Socialist Workers Party simply runs away from the problem. Their remarks show that they have no understanding of what is at stake. For at Ravenscraig, a major steel works, the striking miners face fundamentally the same political problem as they face in Nottingham—a divided working class.

The Revolutionary Communist Party's (RCP) refusal to recognise the split in the working class movement has taken them right into the camp of reaction. They have 'launched' a campaign for a national ballot as the only way to 'unify' all miners, scabs and strikers alike. The RCP has no base amongst any workers let alone miners. But with typically British middle class arrogance have refused to listen to what any striking miner has understood from the very beginning of the strike. That a national ballot serves *only* the interests of Thatcher, the National Coal Board, the opportunist scoundrel Kinnock, and those miners scabbing on the strike. So far from any political reality is this middle class sect, that it regards the decision, taken at the 19 April delegate conference, to make easier the calling of national strike action by reducing the majority needed (from 55% to a simple majority) as 'manipulating the rules' (*The Next Step*). Need any more be said?

The fundamental point that the miners strike is driving home is that the tactics of the strike must be based on the interests of the miners under threat and not the interests of the more privileged sections of the union. The failure of the majority of Nottinghamshire miners, or indeed the Ravenscraig steel workers, to support the strike cannot be explained away on the grounds of 'insufficient propaganda' or 'lack of political argument', but represents a real clash of material interests. They are determined to hold on to the jobs they have rather than fight for the jobs of all workers.

The miners fighting to defend their jobs face an alliance of the government and its police thugs, Labour Party and trade union opportunists, and workers who refuse to go beyond their own narrow sectional interests. The political lesson of this strike has to be brought out. That is, that the traditional methods and structures of the existing organised trade union movement, dominated as it is by opportunism and the interests of its more privileged sections, cannot defend the miners or indeed any other section of the working class forced to fight to survive. It is the determination of the striking miners to defend their jobs which is bringing home this reality. FRFI fully supports the striking miners and calls on all its readers to continue to give support in whatever way they can to the miners' strike.

Olivia Adamson/Terry Marlowe/
David Reed

inbrief

● Dorothy Nyembe – the struggle continues

Dorothy Nyembe, 53, the longest-serving woman political prisoner in South Africa, has been released after serving a full 15 years sentence for harbouring a member of the African National Congress. Dorothy Nyembe, former Vice Chair of the banned ANC Women's League and leader of the South African Federation of Women, says that she is feeling strong and pledged to continue to fight for a free, democratic non-racial South Africa. After six months rest she will be putting her endless energy into the newly formed Natal Organisation of Women. Dorothy Nyembe during her long imprisonment was refused family visits, and not allowed to study or receive newspapers. She is internationally respected as a woman of tremendous courage and defiance, an inspiration to millions of struggling people.

Ruby Khan

● Apartheid's war backed by Britain

The apartheid regime has had to increase the state expenditure for Namibia enormously over the past ten years. The budget has increased from R116.5 million in 1973–74, to R1036.8 million in 1983–84. This is an increase of 789.3%. This is because SWAPO has escalated the intensity of the Liberation war. The success of SWAPO means that the apartheid regime has to spend more daily so as to maintain political control over Namibia. The occupation army costs 3 million dollars a day to keep up its war against SWAPO. To do this South Africa has had to borrow huge amounts from the imperialist banks, thus increasing the debt burden. The fact that South Africa has borrowed from the imperialist banks means that Britain is one of the largest financiers of South Africa's war against the people of Namibia.

The following table shows the actual and projected increase in state expenditure and the public debt burden over a period of eight years.

	State expenditure	Debt burden
1979	R 408 million	R 59 million
1983	R1036 million	R 696 million
1987	R1794 million	R2796 million

Nomsa Langa

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WANTED FOR MURDER

the means to bludgeon its way onto the world scene. They have provided the finance and arms needed by South Africa to attack the Frontline States and given their political support to the compromises South Africa has squeezed from these states. Behind hypocritical statements against apartheid they have encouraged the re-establishment of cultural and sporting links with South Africa. It is no coincidence that the first visit to Britain of a South African Prime Minister for 25 years will take place on the same day as the first match of the English rugby team which intends to tour South Africa. This whole process has only been possible as a result of the passivity and silence of the organised labour movement in the imperialist nations.

As well as visiting Britain, Botha will visit West Germany, Switzerland and Portugal. Now imperialism is so confident that it can openly draw South Africa into its alliance and plan its next move—the attempt to impose a pro-imperialist settlement on the Namibian people. Within a week of Botha's visit, US President Reagan will complete the gangster trio when he also comes to London on 7 June.

We have full confidence that the revolutionary people of Southern Africa will resist the current imperialist onslaught against them. At all costs we must stop Botha's visit and prevent the further legitimisation of apartheid. We call upon all readers to support the Anti-Apartheid Movement's demonstration in London on 2 June and all other protests against the visit. For details contact FRFI BCM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX or phone AAM on 01-387 7966.

Eddie Abrahams and
Chris Fraser



their own shameful sell-out of the steel workers.

Labour betrayal

The miners' strike has revealed Neil Kinnock more and more sharply for the shallow little opportunist that he is. At the 10,000 strong rally outside Sheffield

The NUM does not give strike pay—they say that their millions of pounds of assets and investments would be gone in a matter of weeks if they did. This illustrates perfectly that a modern trade union has more to do with being a big business than using its assets to defend its members' interests to the bitter end.

Despite the hardships, the media has been unable to drive a wedge between the miners and their families and communities. Women have joined picket lines, organised demonstrations in working areas, formed committees, provided meals for families. As one North Derbyshire miner said, 'Let MacGregor carry on with his steaks, we'll carry on with our baked beans to the end'. Pickets have been labelled 'Scargill's Red Guards...' and accused of spreading 'their menacing lawlessness across Britain' (*Observer*) Yet, as one Durham miner, who was due to receive £20,000 in redundancy money if he agreed to sell his job, said: '£20,000 is 4 years wages. After that there's 25 years on the dole. Who wants that?' In the North East, in some of the mining villages where pits have already closed, unemployment is 40%, and 60% among 18-23 year olds. The nearest towns are

Correction

Two rather important errors escaped our proofreaders in Sean Mac Stiofain reviews Ireland: the key to the British revolution in FRFI 38. In the fourth column of the article, the phrase on line 18 'in the Dublin parliament' should read 'on the Dublin Parliament'. In the fifth column, line 16 the sentence:

'In fact for years after '62 the leadership was divided with half opposed to the revisionist policies, and half who urged the correct revolutionary policies at every opportunity.'

should be replaced by:

'In fact for years after '62 the leadership was divided with half opposed to the revisionist policies and who urged the correct revolutionary policies at every opportunity.'

South Africa

KASSINGA ANNIVERSARY

SWAPO INTERVIEW

4 May 1984 marked the sixth anniversary of the Kassinga Massacre when apartheid terrorists murdered over 600 refugees at Kassinga camp in Angola. 200 people were detained without trial by the South African fascists and are still held in a concentration camp. To commemorate this anniversary, we print below an interview with Comrade Jacob Hannai, Deputy Chief Representative Western Europe, SWAPO of Namibia.

FRFI: South Africa's occupation of Namibia has been illegal for the last eighteen years. Can you tell us about the current situation for the people living under fascist rule?

Jacob Hannai: South Africa, which is a fascist government oppressing the people of South Africa, has extended into Namibia and has been very much involved in the oppression of our people, right from the day they came. Namibia is the most militarised country in the world. This militarisation from South Africa is aimed at subduing the will and the aspirations of the Namibian people in their activities towards freedom and national independence.

The situation is deteriorating drastically. People are being subjected to a lot of cruelty and degradation. The South African Defence Force which is an inhuman and fascist army, is using all the forces at its disposal to intimidate our people. The South African Defence Force is comprised of a lot of specialised military units, the Koevoets, the Selous Scouts, the Mercenary Brigades, the Security Police etc, who are inflicting terrorism—abducting our people and killing them in cold blood. They have committed a lot of massacres... There was a massacre near Oshikuku where the homesteaders were wiped out by the blood-hungry Koevoet unit. People are being kept in concentration camps all over the country.

South Africa is trying to gain popularity for apartheid groupings in Namibia—the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance of course which has collapsed—now they have initiated something known as the Multi-Party Conference which has been trying to gain credibility in the eyes of the people. It is an attempt to avoid a SWAPO government. They were instructed to formulate something which would appear to be a constitution but eventually they failed.

There has been no change at all as far as oppression is concerned—people are being subjected still to inhuman treatment.

FRFI: The British imperialist media never reports the real state of the armed struggle and the successes of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). For instance the Sunday Times printed lies about SWAPO forces being defeated in battle at Cuvelai during South Africa's latest invasion of Angola? What is the real war situation?

JH: The British media, like any other imperialist media, have never commented on or written the proper version of the struggle as it is. On the contrary they have written lies. They are serving the interests of the British government. The British government is also participating in the exploitation of our people. They have 60% of the investments in Namibia. The British government cannot be an ardent critic of the South African government. The reasons behind this are obvious.

They lied about Cuvelai. SWAPO of Namibia and its combatants in the liberation army have never been fighting inside Angola. Our combatants are fighting in many places in Namibia, in Kaokoveld, and in Gobabis which is almost 300 miles from the Angolan border, south of Otavi and many other places. We are Namibians and we will continue to fight inside Namibia until it is totally liberated.

FRFI: In 1982 there were 466 racist troops killed in Namibia. What is the morale of the South African Defence Force—what is the morale of the PLAN fighters?

JH: The morale of the SADF is very

low and is decreasing. There are regular defections from the SADF. Though they are still members of the SADF by name, most of the time the troops avoid any engagement with SWAPO. Even the high officials have made it clear that they will never win. PW Botha, the racist Prime Minister, made it clear that the £1bn budget to finance the SADF in Namibia is huge and they are no longer prepared to afford it. South Africa depends on other countries giving loans. The intensification of our liberation struggle will really affect the South African administration. They are prevaricating and they have an intransigent attitude but definitely one of the days they will be defeated!

Our combatants have a very high morale. Young, able-bodied Namibian sons and daughters have been joining all the time since PLAN started its activities and the ranks have been growing. The people are joining PLAN and they are very determined, very devoted and they have vowed that as far as oppression is still prevailing in our own country we will fight until independence is achieved.

FRFI: What has been the effect on the Namibian national liberation struggle of the negotiations between South Africa and the People's Republic of Angola?

JH: The current negotiations between the People's Republic of Angola and South Africa have been bilateral and SWAPO has not been part of these negotiations which are concentrated on the withdrawal of the racist troops from the southern occupied Kunene Province of the People's Republic of Angola. It will only affect us or come to touch us when it starts dealing with the implementation of the UN's Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia.

FRFI: Six years ago this week, on 4 May 1978, the apartheid terrorists killed over 600 refugees at the Kassinga massacre. What is the situation today for the Kassinga detainees and other political prisoners?

JH: Since their abduction from Kassinga the detainees have never appeared in court. There are about 200. They are kept in a concentration camp near Mariental at a place called Hardap Dam. They have been tortured, some have lost part of their limbs, some have had electric shocks and others have been beaten up with police batons. They have been all alone, denied visitors from their families, and from churches. We call upon our friends to campaign for the release of the Kassinga detainees.

The racists are living freely and they freely misuse their freedom to brutalise us. There are concentration camps all over Namibia, to the north and central and everywhere. Our people go missing and disappear during the night—some of them survived and are in the concentration camps. Some perished. So really the number of prisoners is very great.

Ida Jimmy, who went to jail while pregnant and gave birth while in prison, and some of our other comrades have been kept at Windhoek Central Prison and their treatment is just as in other South African prisons. I know the Robben Island situation; I was also there. People have been categorised into sections, sections A, B and C which are known as the general sections, and section D where the Namibians have been staying with a few comrades from the ANC, and an isolation section where Comrades Mandela and Ya Toivo and Sisulu and others were staying. The general sections are not allowed to speak to prisoners in D section, who

have limited association. Nearly all of the 40 Namibians are in section D.

The release of Comrade Herman Toivo Ya Toivo is a boost of morale to the people of Namibia because he is well known in our struggle. We welcome Comrade Ya Toivo in the ranks of the struggling Namibian people and we are quite confident that he will contribute his efforts to the liberation of our country. But we are still campaigning for the release of all Namibian political prisoners, on Robben Island, in Namibia, everywhere. The release of all the political prisoners is one of the preconditions we set for holding free and fair elections and that South Africa will withdraw her troops from Namibia.



FRFI: What does SWAPO want done in Britain to aid the freedom struggle of the Namibian people?

JH: In fact we have specific campaigns which we have been waging all the time. One of course is the campaign—the one we mentioned the campaign for the release of the political prisoners. All the time we have been campaigning for the release of the political prisoners. We have been campaigning for some things we want really to be understood by the public, especially the campaign against the Namibian uranium contract. We don't want our uranium to be misused. By misused I mean the uranium is being extracted by a company which is British, Rio Tinto Zinc, and we also learn that uranium is being used to produce nuclear weapons and that Britain agreed to deploy United States cruise missiles, which has aroused opposition in Britain and all of western Europe. Probably our uranium will be used for this purpose, which doesn't serve any interest of our people at all.

The UN Decree No1 1974 had put it quite clearly that any company exploiting natural resources from Namibia at

this current stage when Namibia is under the illegal occupationist regime is committing plunder against the Namibian economy. The UN Decree No 1 doesn't only concentrate on RTZ but also on other companies, like Consolidated Goldfields, Metal Box, British Leyland, Mobil, Shell—and any other companies which are operating in Namibia at the moment should cease their investment.

Those companies are also allocating specific amounts to finance the racist SADF which is killing our people daily. There are specific provisions on all companies operating in Namibia and South Africa to be under obligation to allocate specific amounts and to render some of

their services, products, whatever they are capable of, to serve the purpose of brutality and exploitation at the hands of the racist regime, through its instrument the SADF and its police force. The companies doing this are really participating directly in the struggle against our people and fighting alongside the SADF.

There is a specific campaign for the women in the refugee settlements, and the young kids also, and we have been campaigning also for materials to combat illiteracy in the settlements.

What we are calling upon our friends to do is to help us and to campaign together with us and to popularise the Namibian struggle under its vanguard SWAPO and to raise the awareness of the people so that they know exactly what is happening. The people really through their consciousness being raised will be in a position to do something and to fight alongside with us. With the overwhelming support of the international community we can facilitate an immediate downfall of racist aggression in Namibia and eventually in South Africa.

RUNNING FOR APARTHEID

South African 'Sportswoman of the Year 1984' Zola Budd has been brought into British sport by the Daily Mail at a cost of £250,000 in order to evade South Africa's ban from international sport. She is currently striving for a place in the British Olympic team: every official body is bending over backwards to help her.

As we predicted in the last issue of FRFI, it didn't take Zola long to turn into a true Brit. Whilst 40 black people are deported every week, including most recently, Afia Begum, Zola Budd is welcomed in a fanfare of publicity. It took Anwar Ditta several years to be reunited with her children: it took Zola Budd 10 days to get British citizenship. This is an insult to all black people in Britain. What is more, she's managed to retain her South African citizenship despite the South African ban on dual nationality for everyone else. Her sister has said that Zola will return to live in South Africa, using it as a base for training in between athletic events.

Who could now say that sport has nothing to do with politics when Zola Budd is being paraded about like a fairy on the tree of blossoming relations between South Africa and Britain? Indeed Zola ('I know nothing about politics, I'm just a barefoot runner') Budd was studying politics at the University of the Orange Free State and looked forward to a career in diplomacy!

South Africa uses sport to win credibility for its racist system. First the rugby tour to South Africa, then the arrival of Zola Budd, now the visit of Prime Minister Botha. Black people at Crystal Place sport ground had every right to call Zola Budd 'white South African trash' because every time she runs, she runs for apartheid. Isolate South Africa Now! Stop Apartheid in its tracks!

Mozambique are continually under threat of attack by the MNR (after attacks in the last month) and they now have 5,000 regular troops protecting the Beira pipeline, at enormous cost. Forced to earn foreign currency by growing cash crops, sufficient land is not available for subsistence agriculture and consequently in the next year Zimbabwe will have to import 600,000 tons of maize. The concessions which the Patriotic Front were forced to make at the Lancaster House talks which led to independence are now taking their toll. The land is still in the hands of the same white farmers and speculators who stole it many years ago and Britain has yet to provide the money promised for 'compensation'. The debt which the people inherited of approximately Z\$400m now stands at Z\$2.5bn.

Two years ago the leaders of the Frontline states met with the leaders of the ANC and SWAPO and pledged increased support for the liberation movements recognising that the destruction of apartheid was the precondition for true democracy in Southern Africa. Now in economic crisis and lacking any real support from the working class movement of imperialist nations the Frontline states have been forced to retreat. When the leaders of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Zambia, Botswana and Tanzania met with the leaders of the ANC and SWAPO on 29 April they issued a joint statement describing the pacts made by Mozambique and Angola as a 'consolidation of freedom and the security of the states which have already achieved independence'.

As of yet it is not possible to know the long term effects of the pacts for Southern Africa. Within South Africa and Namibia the ANC and SWAPO have steadily increased their support and their ability to carry out military actions. Within Mozambique and Angola there is no evidence of a let up in the activities of the counter-revolutionary MNR and UNITA gangs. Our duty remains the same: to oppose all imperialist intervention and support those who fight to destroy apartheid.

Chris Fraser

Southern Africa

Economic Sabotage

Recent evidence shows the extent of South African sabotage in Mozambique and Zimbabwe thwarting both nations' desire for independence and forcing Mozambique to negotiate with racist South Africa (see FRFI 38 on the Nkomati accord of 16 March). Those who benefit from this sabotage are the bankers and businessmen of Britain, the US and South Africa.

Mozambique

During 1982 the South African armed and financed MNR destroyed 489 primary schools, 102 health clinics and 400 commercial enterprises. The *Financial Times* reports that industry is running at 20% capacity. The collapse in prices of primary commodities has devastated the economy; whilst nine years ago 13 tons of cotton would have bought nearly three trucks, today it would buy only one. Mozambique's debt to the imperialists now stands at \$1.4bn and as with most oppressed nations it has to borrow just to pay the interest on its debts. The crisis caused by these factors means that the effect of the drought in Southern Africa has been devastating, causing the death of 100,000 people since 1981. Like vultures, the international thieves are laying their plans.

Tiny Rowlands (Lonrho), Harry Oppenheimer (Anglo American) and David Rockefeller (Chase Manhattan bank) have all praised the security pact signed in March; reports from the capital Maputo describe the influx of South African businessmen to the hotels which are already advertising cheap fares for tourists to Mozambique.

Zimbabwe

A recently published government report in Zimbabwe describes 48 incidents of violence in the last year in which South Africa was involved. South Africa has been supplying weapons to dissidents operating in southern Zimbabwe and has been producing Zimbabwean National Army camouflage uniforms as a disguise for these dissidents. Zimbabwe's oil supplies which it imports via

Fight Racism

JUNIOR SERVICE

On Tuesday 1 May friends and supporters of Junior Service – a young black man who had to have a testicle removed following a racist police assault on 3 February – again disrupted the cosy harmony of the Lambeth police consultative group. They wanted answers from the police and action from the consultative group.

The Lambeth police consultative group – like all such bodies – is a comfortable fraternity of 'community leaders', 'local dignitaries' and the police. They meet, talk, swap platitudes and pass resolutions, while out on the street, racist police thugs beat up, arrest and frame black people. On this night the endless talk was disrupted, as it had been a fortnight earlier, by the community openly confronting the 'community leaders'. On one side the 'leaders', 'dignitaries' and police. On the other black men, women and youth supported by white friends of Junior Service.

A young black woman confronted them: 'We want no falsification. You have done nothing and nothing has changed.' They refused to allow Chief Inspector Strachan, featureless in face and voice, to recite his mechanical 'response' to the PSI report which

exposed the Metropolitan Police as racist, fascist and sexist. A constant barrage of chanting and heckling was kept up. Despite the clamour Strachan continued his robotic recitation. Eventually he was forced to stop and the item was suspended as members of the consultative group – unable to bear the raw truth of police racism – crept one by one out of the meeting.

The consultative committee was exposed for what it is – an attempt to defuse the anger of black people and control their resistance to police racism. The family and friends of Junior Service will continue fighting to defend him and expose the racist Metropolitan Police. Junior Service is now in Brixton prison hospital wing. Readers should send messages of support to him at: HM Prison Brixton, PO Box 369, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London, SW2 5XF. Terry O'Halloran

Racist Immigration Laws

Zola Budd a white South African was granted British citizenship in ten days. Immigration minister David Waddington said it would be 'petty' not to grant Zola citizenship. So much humanity from a man who thinks nothing of implementing the British state's racist immigration laws against black people!

The Home Office is about to deport Mr Samir Mohamed Moursi, an Egyptian who is married to a British woman, Jayne. Samir and Jayne married a year ago after living together for one and a half years. Samir was arrested and detained in Slough police station on 17 April. The Home Office claims that the Moursi's marriage is one of convenience. The very same day Samir was arrested, an immigrant white woman who has lived with a British man for four years but is not married to him was granted British Citizenship even though the man she lives with is married to another white immigrant who gained permanent residence through marrying him. On 5 May London police deported

Afia Begum who had waged a long struggle to remain in Britain. She came to Britain in 1982 to join her husband and has a two year old child.

Zola Budd was granted citizenship so she could realise her dreams of running in the olympics. Meanwhile thousands of black families are divided and destroyed by the racist British state and its immigration controls.

Smash all immigration controls!

Sarah Moore

POLICE ASSAULT

Despite the Policy Studies Institute report finding, amongst other things, that the police are 'racist thugs' and the police's claims to be curbing their natural behaviour, obviously, nothing's changed, especially for black youths on the streets of London. My 'arrest' and detention is ample example of this for any who doubt that.

On the night of Friday 27 April I was returning from Hackney Town Hall, where the council had a session to launch Hackney's contribution to 'anti racist year'. Along Cambridge Heath Road, at 1.20am I was pulled by three PCs who had followed me in two cars. As I refused to let them search me or my bag without reasonable ground they grabbed me, bent me over the back of a car, hand cuffed my hands behind my back and tore my bag from my hand. While being pushed into the car I was told by PC H479 to 'get in the jam jar, coon'. I was at no stage told what I was being arrested for, just that I was nicked.

Along the way to and at Bethnal Green police station I was racially abused and addressed as 'nigger and coon'. When it became apparent that there were no drugs to be found on me H 479 stated several times that on arrest I 'struggled violently' so that at least they would have some kind of back up charge. Station sergeant H53 amused himself by telling me I had no right to a phone call as (rightly) I hadn't been arrested. As I refused to give more than my name and address, as is my right, I was promised a room for the weekend.

then taken to a cell. As I kept banging and shouting for a phone call I was told to 'shut up you black bastard you're not getting anything'.

Sometime later five PCs arrived with a disconnected telephone, after amusing themselves with this I was strip searched having my testicles and anus inspected.

Later on I was taken from the cell to the charge table, where I was told by H53 to sign for my property and go as they no longer wanted me in the station. I refused to sign until I'd checked that all my gear was there, tipping the bag on the table. When threatened with being returned to the cell, I told them to do it cause I didn't care, H53 grabbed my bag, stuffed everything back into it and screamed at me to get out of the station, which I did after telling them that I'd have the last laugh. They had even opened a letter which was sealed for posting, to Cirus Noor in HMP Wandsworth.

I believe that the only reason I was released without charge was due to the fact that I have a case pending against the police for their four failed frame-up attempts on me last year, had this not been the case I may well have ended up as many a black youth with false frame-up charges.

I ask that readers write to the officer in charge at Bethnal Green police station condemning their illegal and humiliating treatment of myself. I am making a formal complaint.

Acé Kelly

Cirus Noor sectioned

The Home Office has confirmed that on 25 April Cirus Noor was sectioned – certified mad – under Section 47 of the Mental Health Act 1980. Cirus Noor, a young black man, has been under continual attack from the prison authorities. He now lies drugged in the hospital wing of Wandsworth prison – a prison notorious for its brutal treatment of prisoners (see FRFI 37).

Cirus Noor, a former member of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, was given two years and four months on 1 December last year. Even before the sentence he was attacked in Pentonville prison when over 25 prison officers assaulted him in the visiting room on 17 November. Three days later the attack was extended to his visitors when Ruby Noorani was arrested at the prison, taken to Islington police station and forced to undergo a humiliating strip search. At that time the Home Office Prison (Lies) Department was telling journalists 'off the record' that Cirus was 'mentally disturbed'. Public exposure of the prison authorities' machinations and slanders, however, put a stop to this.

In March this year in Wandsworth prison the attack began again. On 18 March after a visit Cirus was strip searched. In the period following this incident, Cirus and some other prisoners protested against the regime in Wandsworth. A number of them were beaten up. Cirus was put in a strip cell

MUHAMMAD MUST STAY!

Muhammad Idrish goes to the Appeal Court on 9 or 10 May to fight for permanent resident status. He was married for two and a half years, and is still not divorced. Despite the Home Office's own racist guideline that 12 months marriage is reasonable to establish its 'validity' it refuses to let Muhammad stay. The campaign of publicity and demonstrations for Muhammad rightly points out that 250 people are deported every month. Like Muhammad, all of them require support to win their right to remain in Britain.

Stop the Deportations Now!
Muhammad Idrish Defence Campaign,
c/o 30 Antrobus Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham 21 or c/o 62 Bedminster
Parade, Bristol 3.
Andy Goddard

for three days. After this he was transferred to the hospital and forcibly given Modecate – a powerful behaviour-modifying drug – on 24 April. The next day he was sectioned.

The sectioning of black prisoners who

resist the prison system is a common tactic of the racist prison regime. It means that Cirus' sentence – he was due for release by December – has become an indefinite sentence of detention in a mental 'hospital'. FRFI urges all readers to write to the Home Office condemning this vicious act and to send messages of support to Cirus Noor. Cirus Noor B63620, HM Prison Wandsworth, PO Box 757, Heathfield Road, London, SW18 3HS

Hands Off Cirus Noor!
No Mental Health Act!

Home Office Prison Department, 89
Eccleston Square, London SW1
Terry O'Halloran

Prisoners

PRISON SYSTEM ON TRIAL

John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig took part in the Parkhurst prison seige when assistant governor Gerry Scholfield was held hostage for 29 hours. Both have been charged with unlawfully imprisoning Scholfield. The trial began at Winchester Crown Court on 2 May. On the very first day they were forced to protest in court against threats from their guards. We print below extracts from a statement issued on behalf of the two comrades. FRFI sends its solidarity to John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig and salutes their determined struggle to expose the brutal British prison system.

At Winchester crown court in early May 1984, two long term prisoners will stand trial in a case that has become increasingly embarrassing for the prison system in general and the Home Office in particular. It is a case that clearly encompasses disturbing implications and questions relating to how the Home Office, through its use of the penal system, now intends to inflict a sentence of immediate death on those prisoners who lead and participate in effective forms of organised protest.

After the Albany prison uprising in May of last year Tory Home Secretary Leon Brittan declared that in the near

future 'special provisions' would be created for what he termed 'troublesome' and 'manipulative' prisoners. While Brittan floated such an idea in public he kept carefully tight lipped about another method of controlling recalcitrant prisoners that almost found murderous expression during the Albany protest itself. While prisoners staged an effective rooftop type, political protest a fully armed SAS squad gathered in the immediate vicinity of the jail's security perimeter, fully preparing to remove the unarmed and defenceless prisoners once the anticipated order was given.

Shane Paul O'Doherty

Irish political prisoner Shane Paul O'Doherty has a case for repatriation before the European Commission for Human Rights at Strasbourg. The European Commission has repeatedly requested evidence to be produced which the British government has refused to produce – the British Home Office has not even acknowledged Strasbourg's requests. This is not surprising. Strasbourg wanted evidence of the Home Office's 'facilitation' of visits to Irish POWs. The Home Office cannot produce such evidence because, in fact, it does everything possible to disrupt visits. Only last month, Irish POW Eddie O'Neill was transferred from Brixton prison during a visit.

Shane Paul O'Doherty has come under attack from prison authorities and the Home Office for defending other prisoners. When black prisoner Trevor Smith was assaulted by prison officers, in Long Lartin on 12 July 1983, Shane got information out to expose this racist assault. On 18 November another black prisoner was beaten up twice in 30 minutes. Shane took part in a protest – smashing up cell fittings. The next day prison officers refused to allow certain prisoners out of their cells to slop out. They were forced to foul their cells. None of them were charged for this. Yet the Home Office has since repeatedly accused Shane of taking part in a 'dirty' protest.

On 20 December, after 28 days 'lie-down' in Winson Green, Shane returned to Long Lartin and was put in a cell without a toilet. Eventually he was forced to foul his cell. He was charged for this but never tried or punished. Yet,

again, the Home Office accuses Shane of taking part in a 'dirty' campaign. Indeed, it is now using Shane's principled support of other prisoners as 'evidence' that he is 'subversive' and a 'terrorist'! This is part of the Home Office's campaign to deny repatriation to Shane and all Irish POWs.

Shane Paul O'Doherty's real 'offence' is twofold: one he is demanding repatriation for all Irish political prisoners not just himself; two he has defended the rights of other prisoners. For this, and this alone, he is subjected to a Home Office campaign of denigration and slander. Shane's struggle is yet one more example of the principled and courageous role played by the Irish POWs in opposing the barbaric British prison system.

Right of Repatriation for all Irish POWs!

Terry O'Halloran

VICTORY FOR BLACK YOUTH

Following a fight outside Brondesbury and Kilburn High School on 9 March 1983, the police arrested four black youth despite the fact that the incident was provoked by white racists. A year later, after several postponed hearings, the youth came up for trial on 26 March. One had already had charges against him dropped, the other three faced charges of causing an affray and one – Ivan Andrews – was also charged with causing grievous bodily harm. At the trial, the judge dismissed the charges of affray and asked the jury to consider only the GBH charge against Ivan. After an hours' deliberation the jury found Ivan not guilty! This case is not however completely closed.

FRFI sends its congratulations to the youth in their victory. This is one more case that shows how an organised defence against racist and police harassment can lead to victory.

During the trial, Deborah Falconer who is 16 was called into the witness box on the morning of 26 March without prior warning. Her mother was assured that a teacher would be present with her in court. In fact the only teacher there was testifying for the prosecution. In addition, Deborah was forced to sign a statement without the presence of her parents or a guardian. This, given she is 16, is illegal. Deborah and her mother are taking action against the police.

Ken Hughes

BONEBRAIN'S BLUNDERS IN BEIJING

'It is absolutely untrue that I am going to Peking'

Ronald Reagan, 1978

But US imperialism needs new markets, wants to consolidate an anti-Soviet alliance, and above all else — election year is here. And so Emperor Reagan was off to the People's Republic of China.

The preparations were nothing if not elaborate. US technicians spent a year ensuring the communication links, so that Reagan could blow up the world. He eventually flew in — after several halts on Pacific islands to gather strength — attended by 600 of his courtiers, 300 of the world's press, 400 bottles of California wine and 150 frozen turkeys. Special rest periods had been arranged so he wouldn't doze off, as he did with the Pope in 1982. As President Li Xiannian said in his welcome speech 'a hundred hearings cannot compare with one seeing'. US capitalists must be quite pleased

— a taxation agreement was signed benefiting US investors, and the Nuclear Co-operation pact was announced promising \$20bn of orders.

However, the electioneering fell flat on its face. Nancy went to Beijing zoo where she was photographed being bitten by a patriotic baby panda. Meanwhile Ron was being criticised by Prime Minister Zhao for his policies in Central America, for the deployment of Cruise missiles in Europe, and for the US occupation of South Korea. Reagan arrogantly babbled later in the day about 'God', about 'American Democracy' (!), about 'free markets' (whoever got anything free in a market?), and spewed out anti-Sovietism, hoping to deepen the rift between China and the USSR. However, the Chinese communist leaders refused to be drawn into Reagan's plans. His remarks were considered unfit for publication.

Albert Greene

International

PHILIPPINES

GUERRILLAS ADVANCE

The US imperialist-backed dictatorship of President Marcos in the Philippines continues to tremble under the steady advance of the revolutionary democratic movement. As evidence still mounts of the complicity of Marcos in the murder in 1983 of opposition leader Aquino, it has been the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army (NPA) which has posed the greatest threat to the survival of the US client Marcos.

Recent reports point to the steady rise in NPA operations and support from Luzon in the north to Mindanao in the southernmost part of the Philippines archipelago. Since 16 March, 57 persons, including 27 soldiers and officers, have been killed in NPA operations. The Moro National Liberation Front also continues to heroically resist the genocidal campaign of Marcos against the Muslim Bangsa Moro people in the south Philippines. The NPA, founded by the re-established Communist Party of the Philippines has more than 12,000 regulars under arms and operates in 56 of the 71 provinces of the Philippines.

The Philippines today has a debt to the imperialist banks of more than \$25bn. Filipino workers and peasants are being forced to endure intense poverty and massive unemployment while the US and British multinational corporations are increasing their profits. The Philippines military has expanded enormously under Marcos (279% between 1971 and 1980) and acts as a vicious and ruthless terrorist arm of the dictatorship. Salvadorean-style military death squads torture, loot, rape and arbitrarily execute NPA sympathisers in what is known as 'salvaging'.

The NPA has won the firm trust and allegiance of the people, not just for its uncompromising resistance to repression, but equally for its painstaking political and organisational work amongst the people. As one commentator remarked: 'The NPA talks in bread-and-butter terms'. NPA members give advice to peasants on farming techniques and also organise health posts and schools in rural areas. Many people have their first ever opportunity to learn to read and write. The NPA organises tenant farmers to reduce rents and raise wages. Taxes are levied against local firms. Profiteering landlords, corrupt officials and informers are first warned by the NPA before sterner justice is dispensed.

The NPA are not just fighting a democratic struggle against the fascist puppet Marcos, but are also challenging the control of US imperialism over the Philippines. A series of treaties gives the US the right to maintain several major military installations and bases, including Clark Field air base and Subic Bay naval base. The presence of 18,000 US servicemen has led to the all-too-familiar side-effects: crime, drug addiction, brothels and thousands of discarded children.

The continued support given to the NPA by the Filipino people spells ruin for the US/Marcos dictatorship. The NPA's popularity has been expressed in the words of one poor peasant: 'The rich and the government have their army, we also have our own army, the New People's Army'.

Bill Hughes

SOUTH LEBANON

permanent uprising

In south Lebanon, the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF) is spearheading a sustained guerilla war against the Israeli occupation army. An alliance of the Organisation for Communist Action in Lebanon (OCAL), the Lebanese Communist Party (LCP), Amal militias and other forces, the LNRF announced on 2 April that in March alone its combatants had carried out 39 operations against Zionist forces. Hand in hand with the armed struggle, the 800,000 Lebanese and Palestinians in south Lebanon are in permanent uprising. General strikes, mass demonstrations, unarmed civilian resistance, are daily events.

Relying for their living on agriculture, the masses witness Israeli troops uprooting their orchards and destroying their wheat fields. Obstacles are placed hindering sowing and harvesting agricultural produce. Beirut, the main market for south Lebanon's produce, is sealed off as the Israelis block the Awali river allowing tons of food to waste and rot. In the main towns of Tyre and Sidon, thousands of families are still homeless. In the Palestinian refugee camps, with social, welfare and medical infrastructures destroyed, people live in the grimmest poverty.

The masses are not submitting to such conditions. Brutal repression by Israeli

and Phalange forces — arrests, detentions, murders, curfews, destruction of homes, assassination of religious leaders — have not subdued the people. The opposite. On 18 February south Lebanon was paralysed by strikes and mass demonstrations following the assassination, by Israeli agents, of popular religious leader Sheikh Ragheb Harb. Every day without exception, sometimes 4 or 5 times, Israeli forces are ambushed, rocketted or blown up by the LNRF. On 13 April, 6 Israeli soldiers were killed and two tanks destroyed near the village of Nmairiyeh. Troops surrounded the village, totally isolating it even from food and water supplies. 300 paratroopers went in searching houses and arresting scores of people as well as damaging houses and wheat fields nearby. None of this prevented LNRF forces carrying out further operations.

The LNRF is emerging as a major revolutionary force in Lebanon. It presents a severe challenge to the Zionist occupation mobilising huge popular support on clear democratic anti-imperialist lines rather than sectarian and confessional ones. Thus it also acts as a beacon for the revolutionary forces in Beirut. There Syrian President Assad is trying to form a cabinet with Gemayel, Jumblatt of the Progressive Socialist Party, and Nabih Berri of Amal. By giving Jumblatt and Berri government positions, Assad hopes they will use their popular influence to disarm the revolutionary militias in West Beirut and restore bourgeois order.

Such manoeuvres have little chance of success. Bourgeois order will not dismantle the sectarian Lebanese state, it will not give the oppressed masses work, food and shelter. The increasingly confident advances of the LNRF will act as a force unifying the popular movements in Lebanon, raising the anti-Zionist, anti-Phalange and anti-imperialist struggle to a higher level.

Eddie Abrahams

Libyan Bureau siege

Imperialism has repeatedly demonstrated that it will use any brutality, any foul trick, to destroy opposition in the Middle East and North Africa. US President Reagan has called for the overthrow of the Gaddafi-led Libyan People's Government: US warships patrol Libyan waters, US jets have opened fire on Libyan planes in Libyan airspace. French imperialism ranges its troops against the patriotic forces in Chad and threatens to unleash them against the Libyan army. In this context, British imperialism lends a hand in what became the armed siege of the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

Prior to the 17 April siege of the Bureau, armed police patrolled St James's Square. British staff at the Bureau were turned away by the police. The three main Libyan diplomats in Britain were arrested and detained as they arrived for work. With the square full of police, the Libyan reactionaries were ferried up to the Bureau. Last year a similar police operation in the US resulted in the storming and capture of a Bureau by reactionaries. The Bureau's occupants correctly assessed themselves as being under siege.

The real facts of the shooting of WPC Fletcher will never be known. What is certain is that the British state used the

siege as a means of stepping up harassment of Libyans in Britain and to prepare for increased attacks upon all anti-imperialists in Britain using the extended PTA. In this they were eagerly assisted by the vile racist slurs of the British press. The British public are being manipulated not only for a further attack on Libya but also for a further attack on democratic rights in Britain. Immediately the Bureau's occupants departed Home Secretary Brittan announced that he was considering a Bill to forbid demonstrations outside all embassies, thus outlawing pickets of the racist apartheid South African embassy.

Joe Hunt

Fightback

However this particular occasion did not serve as an exclusive precedent for the introduction of an armed paramilitary force against the protesting prisoners. Three months earlier at neighbouring Parkhurst Prison a paramilitary unit armed with automatic weapons, sawn off pump-action shotguns and stun grenades had swept through a wing there as a show of brutal force to other prisoners while two inmates, armed with only small home made knives held the Wing Governor hostage in his office in protest over the inhuman treatment of rebellious prisoners at the prison.

The message was made terrifyingly clear at both Albany and Parkhurst; in future armed force, and possible on the spot execution would be the State's response to organised acts of effective protest within Britain's jails.

The Winchester trial in May stems from the hostage incident at Parkhurst jail last year. Both defendants have sought to widen the scope of their legal defence by calling as witnesses for the defence case prisoners who were at Albany jail when the uprising occurred. Though all prisoners who participated in that uprising achieved a significant victory when the High Court intervened to ratify a European Court direction that pri-

soners should be given proper legal representation in internal disciplinary hearings thereby rendering null and void the massive losses of remission handed out to the Albany prisoners, they remain in strict and indefinite solitary confinement.

The Home Office was also careful to ensure that none of them were placed into a proper outside court for their actions thereby depriving the prisoners of an effective platform from which to highlight in public the political reasons behind their jail protest.

If the defendants in the Winchester trial are allowed to exert their legal right to call their fellow prisoners as defence witnesses in the context of exposing methods of barbaric treatment at both Albany and Parkhurst it will serve as an immense tactical defeat for the Home Office.

To date numerous prisoner witnesses involved in the Winchester trial have been openly threatened by prison staff with dire consequences (in one case a direct threat of death was issued) should they seek to expose, through their evidence, the constant brutality inflicted upon politically minded prisoners within the long term prison.

Tape recordings relating to the conversations within the hostage room at Parkhurst between the two prisoners and their captive are presently being withheld from the defendants and their legal representatives on the grounds that it would 'not be in the public's interest' to play them back in open court with public and press present.

That both prisoners physically survived the Parkhurst Siege and are now in a position to highlight the murderous intentions of the Home Office during the incident, is something which was obviously not anticipated — hence the concerted efforts of both the Home Office and Judiciary to conceal vital evidence relating to the case, ie, the tape recordings, and instructions issued to police witnesses during the committal proceedings to remain mute in the face of questions pertaining to police tactics throughout the Parkhurst Siege. In 1979 at Wormwood Scrubs prison in London, long term prisoners engaged in a completely peaceful sit-down protest and were viciously attacked by a military style gang of wardens who afterwards claimed to have been trained in new 'riot control' methods — this marked the introduction of the notorious MUFTI squads, a whole new innovation in brutally destroying peaceful protests in British jails. The development goes on.

During the Parkhurst Siege small groups of wardens in leather head masks and boiler suits were observed working in close conjunction with the armed paramilitary unit drafted into the jail. Were they the organised embryo of future POA death squads?

Sinister developments are taking place within the mini-totalitarian states of British Prisons... the Winchester trial must be seen as a means by which those murderous processes can be thrust into the open public view. One of the siege prisoners said the following to a newspaper reporter during the siege itself:

'We intend to lift the lid off this place' The trial at Winchester may be an extension of that ambition. John Bowden Collective

BLACK PRISONER ATTACKED

On 28 April I saw another occurrence of prison department brutality. I was in the gym playing basketball when a crowd of screws came in through the unlocked door of the gym. The PE Instructor went over to talk to them, and I overheard him say 'he's down the other end'. I looked down into the changing room at the far end of the gym and saw a black prisoner I know, called Pat Mark, who has been repeatedly harassed by the screws here, and especially by the PE Instructor who was on that morning. I told him that I thought the screws (who had retreated into the hallway behind the gym) had come down there for him.

He walked out of the gym, and some seconds later I went to follow him to ensure that he was okay. As I pushed the door open with my feet, two or three screws crashed against it, from outside, and locked it thereby knocking me back into the gym and injuring my right foot. I, and other prisoners in the gym, pulled the curtains back that covered the windows that look onto the hallway. We saw a pile of screws pinning Pat to the floor, while one brave slag twisted his foot back and forth, and another bent his fingers back. As far as I know he is now in the strong box.

Needless to say, I and the other prisoners will stand as witnesses for Pat. Not that we will be able to vindicate him in front of the kangaroo board of visitors court.

I am writing to my solicitor with a view to pressing charges against the prison department etc for the injury I received due to the screws wishing us to be locked into the gym so that they could assault Pat Mark without witnesses. Typically, the stupid bastards forgot about the windows. Keep up the good work at FRFI.

SMASH THE SYSTEM! Patria o Muerte. Richard J Miles, HM Prison Blundeston

POLICE FILE



● Bad manners

Tests on police officers have shown that they are severely lacking in 'social skills', and a police inspector has called for changes in the way recruits are trained.

While we are given no information on the standard of the barbarians' table manners, the tests showed that police responded to simulated 'provocations' by the public with extreme verbal aggression. (O! you John! Up against the wall you bastard!)

The inspector responsible for the tests said that 'the politeness and restraint they are taught during initial training gives way to a tougher, more forceful response'. So, the next time the fifth approach you with the words 'I say, excuse me Sir/Madam, but would you mind awfully if I bonk you on the head with my truncheon', then you will know that he has had advanced tuition in social skills.

● The young convicts

The headmistress of a Church of England school in North London called police in to lecture children about property and the way in which 'thieves' are dealt with by British justice, after a spate of alleged thefts. The four to six year old children were told by police 'next time you'll be behind bars'.

● Home Office corruption

Prindus is a large industrial company run by the Home Office; it is devoted to the creation of enormous profits through manufacture of goods by the slave labour of prisoners in British gaols. Were this not corrupt enough, four Home Office officials have been suspended following allegations of bribery in the allocation of contracts carried out by prison workshops (which produced goods worth £30 million in 1982). The investigation is being carried out by the Scotland Yard Fraud Squad and in the time-honoured manner: 'It is expected to be some time before the inquiries are completed'.

● I'm in the force lads

Police officers may be disciplined after a superintendent who smelled of drink was not given a breath test (tut tut!).

The now former superintendent Geoffrey Squire (he left the force for health reasons - very tired and emotional) was fined £250 and was banned from driving for one year after hitting a bollard and bursting two tyres. He parked in a car park and three police officers arrived and saw he was unsteady on his feet. Instead of breathalysing him Squire was helped to change the tyres (using one spare from a police car) and sent on his merry way. But Squire's connections were not quite good enough (he is the son of the Chairman of the South Wales Police Authority) and he was convicted and forced to resign.

● Overenthusiasm

What is the use of having a new toy if you cannot use it? When Northamptonshire police received a report of an intruder in a local gun shop they thought this an ideal opportunity to try out their shiny new CS gas cannister. The gas cannister was duly sent flying and, hey presto, burnt the shop down.

Notes and Comments



ARMAGEDDON: THE PRESIDENT'S FINAL ROLE

'The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose. An evil soul, producing holy witness, is like a villain with a smiling cheek.' Shakespeare's words are well fitted to US President Reagan who claims to see God's hand guiding his career, who justifies every barbaric act of US imperialism with the Lord's name and who presents the whole nonsense with the air of a genial rogue. However, this villain whose 'career' has been guided from reciting corny lines to telling lies for a living, now sees God scripting him a starring role in 'Armageddon'!

Last October Reagan confided to the director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee 'You know, I turn back to your ancient prophets in the Old Testament and the signs foretelling Armageddon and I find myself wondering if - if we're the generation that's going to see that come about'. President Reagan is 73. The *New York Times* reported Reagan as saying that his current favourite book is the former British General John Hackett's *The Third World War, August 1985. A Future History*. This book promotes the case for a pre-emptive nuclear strike by NATO against the Soviet Union. While attending a nationwide broadcast 'prayer breakfast' earlier this year Reagan dwelt fondly upon what is apparently his favourite muse, 'if you could add together the power of prayer of the people just in this room, what would be its megatonnage.'

So far gone is he in the movie steadily forming in his mind that Reagan forgets that this production will have no box office receipts. He (like the 400 fundamentalist religious broadcasters he chose to launch his 1984 election crusade before) believes that he, and presumably Nancy too, are among the 'elect' who will be spirited into paradise while the 'godless communists' are delivered into eternal damnation when the final reel is loaded in the battle between good and evil. A pleasing finale for the Commander-in-Chief of Imperialism's mightiest force.

Trevor Rayne

GREENHAM: BAILIFFS AND POLICE FAIL AGAIN

The presence of hundreds of women and the glare of publicity delayed the mass eviction of all the peace camps at the Greenham Common air base for 2 days. But on 4 April, bulldozers and hundreds of police moved in, and several miles of the main A339 road from Newbury to Basingstoke were sealed off. 400 police surrounded the camp at the main gate and as soon as the women had been removed, contractors moved in to erect a high fence around the area. Work has now begun on the Department of Transport's bogus road-widening scheme. All the women evicted have returned to set up their camps again, except for the women from the Main gate. They have been forced to sleep in survival bags in the open nearby, and constant evictions mean that many keep their 'few belongings on their backs. As one of the women Rebecca Johnson described: 'We are constantly moved on and threatened with arrest at every turn. Sometimes the police are not clear under which law, byelaw or rule they are operating and neither are we, but being arrested is no fun, so we move on.'

Police continually extinguish their fires, and firewood is confiscated as camping equipment and stacked next to a bonfire built inside the contractors' enclosure which they use to keep themselves warm. Women are followed to the toilet and are subjected to foul verbal abuse. Police also allow vigilantes to damage or destroy the women's property. At the orange gate, vigilantes set fire to gauze right by sleeping women.

The trial by jury at Reading Crown Court of 12 women for criminal damage (timed to coincide with the eviction) was discharged on 9 April following an article in the *Daily Express* which named one of the defendants. Even though the Judge dismissed the case the women were punished - they had to sign on at police stations around the country every day for several weeks.

Evictions and harassment of the women at all the camps around the base are a daily occurrence. More women are desperately needed to relieve women who are exhausted from constant moves and the vindictive actions of the police and vigilantes.

Ruby Khan

LIVERPOOL: SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL'S STAND

The council elections on 3 May have shown the Liverpool Labour councillors' declared intention to resist cuts in spending imposed by central government, to be a popular one. The turnout for the election was up 10% on last year's council election and the Labour majority has been increased from 51-48 to 58-41. This means that an 'illegal' budget is almost certain to be approved. The 9% increase they will sanction will leave a deficit at the end of the coming year of up to £190m.

Should the 'illegal' budget be approved, the government will send in civil servants to run the city; bankruptcy proceedings may be declared against the Labour councillors, and they could be thrown into gaol. Far from supporting their stand in the election, Kinnoch urged the councillors not to 'abandon' the electors, and instead impose a 60% rate increase in order to stay in office.

The increased support for the stand taken by Liverpool's Labour councillors has been reflected in other major cities. Birmingham, known as the jewel in the crown of Tory councils - which implemented rate cuts of 12% and 4.5% in the last 2 years, with corresponding cuts in jobs and services - has now fallen to Labour with a majority of 61-52. Birmingham Tories are already talking of 'class war'. Labour has also gained control in Edinburgh and Southampton and further gains have been made by the Labour left in Manchester - where the possibility also exists of passing an 'illegal' budget. These developments show a growing anti-Thatcher trend amongst working class communities as the crisis begins to bite more deeply. It remains to be seen how these councils carry the fight forward. They will get little help from the likes of Kinnoch. On the day following the elections, he renewed his attack on the Liverpool councillors, saying that they 'would do best ... to stay in the positions to which they have been elected so that they can mitigate, protect and dilute the effect of central government planning'. Hidden behind this fancy rhetoric is the simple truth that the only thing Kinnoch is interested in protecting is his own credibility as a bourgeois politician - even if the poor have to get hammered by a 60% rate rise to do it!

Robert Clough

NHS: RENEWED ATTACKS

In a month when a survey showed social conditions reducing life expectancy in Liverpool by 7.6 years, a series of NHS scandals reveals the vulnerability of welfare under capitalism.

For example, the government allows monopoly suppliers to extort huge profits from the NHS. While Health Minister Clarke admits that oxygen cylinders for the home treatment of chest patients cost 6 times as much as oxygen concentrators, the British Oxygen Company maintains a monopoly on cylinder sales at £3m a year extra cost to the NHS. The London Rubber Company's surgical glove monopoly is permitted, although identical products are available for £1.6m a year less. The company's salesmen talk of 'gifts' for 'allies' in the DHSS supplies division.

In Social Services Secretary Fowler's constituency, investigations continue into frauds by consultants at the Good Hope District Hospital. Private patients are falsely recorded as NHS patients, enabling consultants to pocket fees: nationally this cheats the NHS of millions of pounds.

The government continues to impose privatisation. It was recently suggested that taxis could replace part of the ambulance service. Clarke forced Cornwall to give a £300,000 laundry contract to a private firm, although the authorities' 'in-house' tender was £47,000 less. Similar events have occurred in Medway and West Yorkshire.

Meanwhile, mental patients in Highcroft Hospital, Birmingham, endure atrocious

conditions. The toilets have no doors and the hospital is 43 nurses short of minimum safety standards. Saving the authority £15,000 a year, 100 patients work for 50p a day, packing equipment for...the Good Hope District General Hospital!

Transferring funds away from mental illness, North Birmingham Health Authority has imposed cuts £90,000 above those demanded by government. This sickening rush to exceed Fowler's cuts is repeated across the country: authorities have voluntarily cut, in total, £30m more than the £100m ordered, and sacked 3,000 more than the 5,000 target.

Against this background of profiteering, fraud, exploitation and servility, further cuts are unavoidable. Guys Hospital district, under a clearly sexist attack, lost 109 beds from the breast cancer, gynaecology and obstetrics departments. Not content with the massacre of the NHS, Fowler has ordered the biggest review of the social security system since the war. With family benefits 'reviewed' by the appalling Rhodes Boyson, and Housing Benefits investigated by Jeremy Rowe of the Abbey National, workers can expect nothing but more attacks.

Dave Burton

GAY BOOKSHOP RAIDED

On Tuesday 10 April Customs and Excise officers seized nearly one thousand lesbian and gay books in a series of raids in London, codenamed Operation Tiger. The main target was Gay's The Word, Britain's biggest gay community bookshop.

At 9.20 on Tuesday morning, two Customs officers demanded entry to the flat of GTW director Glenn McKee. He was held a virtual prisoner in his own home for six hours before the raiding party left with private papers, videos and books.

At 1pm another team of officers descended on Gay's The Word bookshop itself. Customers were told to leave and the manager was 'advised' to close the shop. For nearly four and a half hours Customs police sorted out all the books imported from the United States - they had to keep ringing up to find out what they were meant to take. A third of the shop's stock was eventually confiscated. Many documents were taken away for closer examination.

The shop's two workers, Amanda Russell and Paul Hegarty, were held at Customs and Excise for most of the afternoon and were denied the right to make a phone call. Amanda's flat was searched and several video recordings of *Dallas* seized. Customs men also raided the home of GTW director Dr Jonathan Cutbill. So far no charges have been made.

The response of the gay community has been angry and swift. On Sunday 15 April the Defend Gay's The Word Campaign was launched by a meeting of 200 people at County Hall. A picket of HM Customs was held on 27 April, supported by 150-200 people. Further information and donations: CDGTW c/o Capital Gay, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. Telephone: (01) 278 7654.

The Customs swoop is indicative of a general escalation in the harassment directed at the gay community. On the same day six plainclothes police officers raided the home of Chris Bankford, which is also the national office of the group Gay Rights in Prison. The police had a warrant to search for obscene photographs but no arrests were made and the only thing they took was clothing.

Sam Jenkins of the NCCL has said that these two raids, coming so soon after the recent raid on a gay movement disco in Kings Cross, are 'clearly political', and 'suggest that the police have targetted the gay movement for suppression'. David Jackson

MICHAEL BETTANEY: PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

MI5 officer Michael Bettaney was sentenced to 23 years imprisonment at the end of a rigged judicial farce at the Old Bailey on Monday 16 April. He had been found guilty by a vetted jury on ten charges under the Official Secrets Act.

The 'trial' of Michael Bettaney was a mockery of justice. The right to a public hearing was denied: both the public and the press were excluded from almost all of the 'trial'. The right to jury trial was subverted by strict vetting aimed at producing a jury certain to bring the verdict laid down in advance: guilty. The right to have all evidence openly produced and tested through

cross examination was denied. Some of the evidence was withheld from judge, jury, prosecution and defence. The defence was restricted by the fact that cross examination was prevented where matters of 'security' were involved. A secret 'trial' in a locked and shuttered courtroom with a vetted jury and vetted 'evidence': such British 'justice'. The precedent established in the Bettaney 'trial' now exists for use whenever the British ruling class sees fit.

Michael Bettaney is indeed a prisoner of conscience. He joined MI5 as a good servant of the state in 1975. As a British spy he spent three years in the Six Counties actively involved in the British war against the Irish people. There, confronted by the reality of British imperialism in action, he began to question his own role and the system he was defending. By the summer of 1982 he had decided to use his position as a spy to aid the socialist countries against counter-revolution and to subvert imperialist war plans.

The ruthlessness of the attack on Bettaney, following the vicious sentence on Sarah Tisdall and the destruction of trade union rights at GCHQ, indicate the growing fear in the ruling class of its own servants. As the crisis of imperialism develops and repression becomes ever more blatant, more individuals within the state apparatus will be driven to question their role in maintaining an oppressive system. The government is attempting to halt this process by intimidation, rigged 'trials' and cruel sentences.

Michael Bettaney has turned his back on a life of privilege as an imperialist spy. He will undoubtedly spend much of his time in solitary confinement and suffer the worst that the barbaric British prison system can offer; FRFI sends its solidarity to Michael Bettaney. The sentiments of his political statement are ones that all revolutionaries echo and we can only repeat his final call:

'...I call on comrades everywhere to renew their determination and redouble their efforts in pursuit of a victory which is historically inevitable.'

Free Michael Bettaney!

Terry O'Halloran
Greetings should be sent to: Michael Bettaney, HM Prison Coldingley, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX.

BELGRANO: LIES AND MORE LIES

Thatcher's order to sink the Argentinian ship the *Belgrano* with the loss of 368 lives was the barbarous act which scuttled the Peruvian peace plan for the Malvinas Falklands conflict, and brought about the start of a full-scale war.

In a recent joint interview with Frances Pym, US Secretary of State Alexander Haig stated that the Peruvian proposals had reached the state of 'acceptance in principle from both parties' by the weekend of the sinking. Frances Pym however claimed on the programme that only vague 'ideas and headings' were discussed, no text, and nothing 'of substance' to report to London. General Haig has just published a book where he states that the *Belgrano* was 'equipped with exocet missiles and steam ing in a threatening manner towards the British fleet'. Yet even the British Government has been forced to admit that the *Belgrano* was not only outside the exclusion zone but also returning to its home port when the attack was ordered.

Lord Lewin, chief of defence staff, has claimed that the *Belgrano* was being used to direct aircraft attacks on the British fleet but Tam Dalyell has stated that the *Belgrano* could not have played this role because its radar range was 150 miles too short. Dalyell also states that GCHQ Cheltenham had intercepted a message calling the *Belgrano* back to port. So the British war cabinet had this information before they made the decision to sink the cruiser - a second world war ship, carrying 1,100 men. Lewin has, along with Thatcher, denied that the war cabinet even knew of the Peruvian peace plan when the order was given to sink the ship.

Apart from Tam Dalyell, the Labour Party has kept virtually silent over the whole affair. With its own disgusting record of imperialist aggression, the Labour Party does not wish to expose the reasons behind this attack which smashed all hopes of a peaceful settlement. Tam Dalyell has now been banned from the House of Commons for a week for calling Thatcher a liar over the *Belgrano* affair. In a house of liars the one thing that is forbidden is to call someone a liar!

Helen W

The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain begins by saying that:

'As communists we are concerned with the progress of humanity. Today the possibility exists to create a society where the basic needs of all people throughout the world can be satisfied. Yet the vast majority of people live in poverty and squalor while a small minority lives in unprecedented wealth.'

Communists are not alone in being concerned with the progress of humanity. Communists are not alone in recognising the vast inequalities of wealth that exist throughout the world. Liberals, socialists, humanitarians and many others, all recognise these facts of life. What is so special about communists? In what way do we differ from other socialist and humanitarian currents?

As communists we base ourselves on the scientific principles laid down by Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848. What are these principles? They broadly state:

At the root of the vast inequalities of wealth, poverty, squalor, oppression and wars, is the capitalist system of production. Capitalism limits the production of wealth, limits the development of the productive forces of humanity to the narrow limits determined by profit-making. The fundamental needs of the vast majority of humanity cannot be fulfilled because of the capitalist form of producing wealth.

Technically we can produce sufficient for the whole world – it is the capitalist system which prevents this taking place. The capitalist system therefore holds back the progress of humanity – humanity can only go forward if the capitalist system is destroyed and replaced by a higher social system – socialism and later communism.

Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than:

□ the run down of industry in Britain as the productive forces are systematically destroyed in the interests of profit making. Employment in manufacturing industry in Britain is now 25% down from 1979. And yet millions are unemployed and millions even in Britain in 1984 live in poverty.

□ the rapid increase in defence expenditure and on the forces of 'law and order', while state and social security benefits are held back – in order to defend the capitalist system as opposition to it internally and externally increases.

□ the destruction and burning of food in all the major imperialist countries, and the recent disputes in the EEC where member states are being forced to cut back the production of food – 'food surplus', 'butter mountains' and other such obscenities are invented by capitalist propagandists to justify the cut back in food production in the interests of profits, while millions of people, millions of children, are dying of starvation.

We are communists, and we differ from other social currents, precisely because we recognise that only when production is organised on a planned, socially-directed basis – that is, socialism – will production take place to satisfy the needs of millions of people throughout the world. As Marx and Engels put it in the *Communist Manifesto*,

'In bourgeois society, living labour is but a means to increase accumulated labour. In communist society accumulated labour is but a means to widen, to enrich, to promote the existence of the labourer.'

In our terms, in capitalist society people are only employed in order to increase the profits of the capitalist class. In communist society people will be employed to widen, to enrich, to promote the existence of those who actually produce the wealth.

The first point, therefore, that differentiates us as communists is that socialism is necessary if the vast majority of humanity is to satisfy its basic needs...

The ever-recurring crises, the vast inequalities of wealth within the capitalist system, throw up forces which have a fundamental interest in destroying that system. For Marx and Engels those forces are the working class or proletariat. This class being forced to sell its labour power to live and owning no property or capital has no interests in the existing property relations – capitalism. Marx and Engels then said:

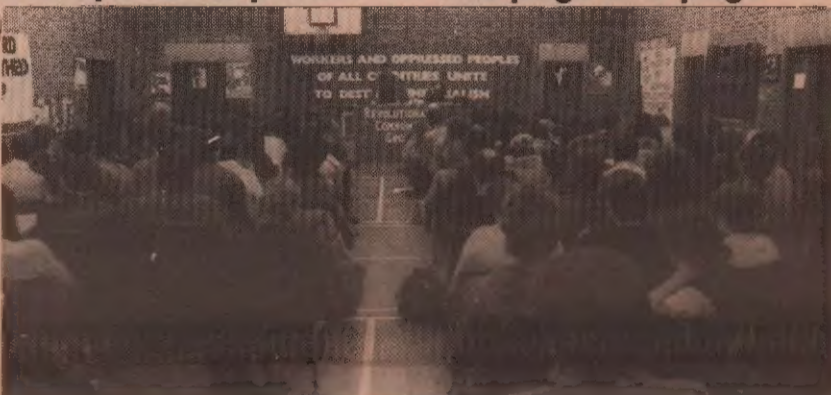
'The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.'

When Marx and Engels wrote the *Communist Manifesto* they argued further that the working class, having no ties to the capitalist system, would oppose the exploitation of one nation by another. The victory of the working class in the most developed capitalist countries, they argued, would lead to the liberation of oppressed nations.

anti-imperialist WEEKEND

THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD TO COMMUNISM IN BRITAIN

As part of the anti-imperialist weekend of 14–15 April 1984 170 people met together in Caxton House, London, to discuss the RCG manifesto 'The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain' and the political standpoint of the paper Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! After a day of workshops, films and discussion the closing plenary session was addressed by David Reed. His speech is printed on this page and page 10.



Part of the audience at the FRFI dayschool

PAUL MATTHEWS

This view of an undifferentiated, generally uniform, solid working class had to be changed. It was a measure of the greatness of Marx and Engels that they were able to develop their standpoint in relation to changing historical conditions and most importantly make this clear and explain to us why this change of view had been necessary.

Marxism, comrades and friends, is not a dogma – it is a scientific standpoint which must be developed in relation to the changing historical conditions – in relation to the changing reality.

What is important is that as capitalism developed into its imperialist phase a split occurred in the working-class movement. Britain had two important features of imperialism in the middle of the 19th century – vast colonial possessions and a monopolistic position in the world market. This enabled Marx and Engels to point to such developments in their own lifetime. Lenin was to further develop these as a component part of the theory of imperialism.

While the fundamental point remained – capitalism creates forces within it which will overthrow it – now a further barrier existed to that overthrow. A section of the working class now existed which had an interest in the continuation of capitalism, and an interest in the exploitation of one nation by another. For imperialism creates a privileged layer of the working class whose privileges and status arise from the exploitation of one nation by another. This was, and still is, a fundamental feature of capitalism in its imperialist phase – a fundamental feature of our situation today.

And what is most important is that this section of the working class at the present time holds the dominant positions of power in the working class movement and through its influence can undermine and sabotage the struggles of other sections of the working class. Lenin called this privileged section of the working class an *opportunist current in the working class movement*. These privileged layers of the working class put their own narrow interests before those of the majority of workers.

'Opportunism means sacrificing the fundamental interests of the working class to the temporary interests of an insignificant minority of workers, or, in other words, an alliance between a section of workers and the bourgeoisie directed against the mass of the proletariat.'

Lenin CW vol 21 pp 242-3

Nothing demonstrates the features of this better today than the ongoing miners' struggle where a section of miners have allied themselves with the ruling class against the interests of the majority of miners – all to defend the temporary privileges obtained by working in highly productive pits. It is a point I shall return to later.

Because of the dominant influence of this opportunist layer in the working class movement, Lenin was forced to say in 1920 at the Communist International,

'Opportunism is our principal enemy. Opportunism in the upper ranks of the working class movement is not proletarian socialism but bourgeois socialism. Practice has shown that the active people in the working class movement who adhere to the opportunist current are better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie itself. Without their leadership of the workers, the bourgeoisie could not remain in power.'

It follows from this that the imperialist system cannot be overthrown unless the influence of these opportunist currents in the working class is broken. And this can only be done in the course of political struggle. For the proportion of the working class under the influence of these opportunist layers is only determined in struggle. Communists ally themselves with the oppressed sections of the working class and with the less privileged sections of the working class – in Lenin's words 'go down lower and deeper to the real masses' precisely to organise a struggle against these opportunist layers in the interests of the vast majority of workers.

So while capitalism indeed does create within it the political forces to overthrow it, in its imperialist phase it

also creates an additional barrier to that overthrow – an influential section of the working class which allies itself with its own ruling class. Unless the influence of this privileged layer is destroyed, capitalism cannot be overthrown and socialism is not possible. That's another way in which we, as communists, differ from socialists, libertarians and other humanitarian currents.

The third point of difference is that we recognise that the working class can only transform capitalist into communist society by 'raising itself to the position of the ruling class' – establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat, in Marx's terms. That is the working class seizing state power and using its state power to expropriate the owners of capital – the old ruling class. In the 1872 Preface to the *Communist Manifesto* we read that the Paris Commune of 1871 – where the working class held power for two whole months – conclusively proved that 'the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes'. It had to destroy the old state machine.

In our language – the institutions of the capitalist state, its parliament, laws, judiciary, courts, police and army are all designed to preserve the interests of the capitalist class. The working class has to destroy that old order and the influence of the old ruling class, and it has to create its own organs of working class power – soviets, workers' militia etc to preserve its own class rule.

Nothing demonstrates this point more clearly than Chile in 1973 when the constitutionally elected left government was overthrown by the army. It is indeed a fact that the leader of the Communist Party in Chile, Luis Corvalan, wrote in the theoretical magazine of the Chilean CP, two months before the coup took place, that the workers had nothing to worry about because the army was on our side. The army would almost certainly defend democracy. That is the significance of opportunism in the ranks of the working class. The statement was made by somebody who has the nerve to call himself a communist. The working class suffered brutal defeat, murder and torture, because the working class movement was not prepared to face up to the realities of ruling class power – the realities of imperialism in this particular period.

So the question of fighting opportunism is not simply a question of ideas, not simply a question of political struggle. For many workers all over the world it is a life and death question, as Chile in 1973 demonstrated.

These points are ones that I won't dwell on. They raise issues about working class power that in the future we will

certainly have to discuss in more detail.

So I have said now why we are communists and why we as communists differ from humanitarians, socialist and other currents of that kind. But how do we work as communists, what distinguishes us in our work as communists?

WHAT DISTINGUISHES US AS COMMUNISTS?

Again we return to the *Communist Manifesto*. Communists in upholding the principles I have just outlined must represent the interests of the working class as a whole – they have no interests separate from those of the working class as a whole. In the *Manifesto* it says:

'The communists are distinguished from other working class parties by this only: 1) In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality. 2) In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole.'

The practical application of these principles would depend everywhere and at all times on the existing historical conditions. Today we are applying these principles in the conditions of imperialist Britain and that fundamentally dictates our approach to building a communist movement in Britain today. There is also no international communist movement, no Communist International in existence in any serious sense of the term, and while it eventually will be rebuilt we have to recognise that no such movement exists today.

Communism has never taken root in the British working class movement. The organised working class in Britain has since the latter half of the nineteenth century been a reactionary, backward current in the international working class movement supporting British imperialism's adventures all over the world – most recently in Ireland and the Malvinas/Falklands.

The task of changing this is a formidable one today. But if it is to be done then a number of important political guidelines have to be accepted.

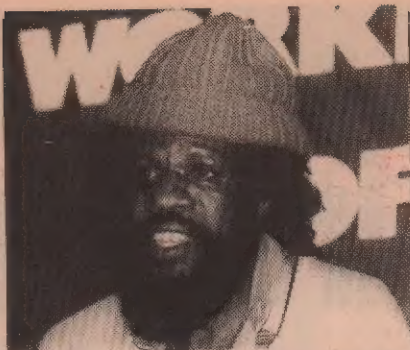
On the basis of the super-exploitation of oppressed peoples the British ruling class has created and sustained a privileged layer of the working class – its allies or agents in the working class movement. The organised labour movement – the Labour Party and official trade union movement represents this layer in the British working class movement. To destroy the influence of this opportunist layer necessitates a movement against British imperialism. Only such a movement can undermine and destroy the material, social and political foundations of this privileged layer – this labour aristocracy. Unless such a movement is built, the working class will continue to be controlled by these opportunist currents – its struggles will continue to be sabotaged and reaction will be strengthened in Britain.

continued on page 10

Jerry Calliste New Jewel Movement

The American invasion and occupation of Grenada... the Americans did not only invade but are now occupying our country and dismantling all the progressive organisations that were built in Grenada. One example of this is that the funds of the national women's organisation have been frozen which in effect means that they can no longer function because they have no money... Nurseries, playgroups etc are now in fact not functioning which means women have to stay at home to look after the children...

I feel it is important to express my pleasure at being invited here. The NJM have been invited to speak from this platform. Now there are so many different organisations in this country who call themselves socialist, marxists, who call themselves a whole lot of things. But if we were to look at their work at the way they function and the things that they say, we would see very clearly that they are not what they claim to be. In fact they are just extensions of the British ruling class... Because we know it and we have seen it... We can say quite clearly that starting in October when the Americans invaded after the murder of comrade Bishop and the other comrades there was only one paper...



one socialist newspaper that consistently gave support to the NJM and the people of Grenada and recognised that the people of Grenada supported an organisation called the New Jewel Movement. There were some organisations who bypassed the NJM claiming to be so damned socialist that they couldn't see reality. They couldn't see that the people supported the NJM...

I started reading your paper (FRFI) some years ago quite by chance... I judge any newspaper that calls itself socialist by the line that they take on Ireland. You may say I'm Irish, if you say so I am! (applause) I am a supporter of the Irish people and the organisation that represents their interests and their views and your paper has consistently supported the Irish struggle. Not in a liberal way but in a revolutionary way...

SWAPO of Namibia

Comrade the chair-person, comrades and friends, although we are unable to come and attend this Anti-Imperialist rally this evening, we are sending you a message of solidarity on behalf of the suffering, oppressed but struggling people of Namibia. May we thank you, first of all for the invitation extended to us to come and share the platform with all those who are fighting against racism and imperialism the world over. The invitation in itself reflects the dire need for unity, cooperation and understanding among all anti-racist and anti-imperialist forces. We wish the rally a great success.

It is inconceivable, comrades, that until today we have forces of imperialism and racism among us. To understand this one has to look at the concept of class. It is true comrades and friends that today the battle is between those forces of reaction who want war, oppress, discriminate and exploit others and between those who want peace, democracy, justice, freedom and independence.

In Namibia the situation is not different. The country is still under colonial subjugation and Western countries headed by the Reagan Administration are in coalition with the racist regime of South Africa, the country which occupied Namibia illegally in defiance of the international community. This is exemplified in their use of Veto in the UN Security Council when sanctions against South Africa are called for. But for how long this is to continue, only time will tell. In the meantime, however, the Namibian people are dying, long term imprisonment, abduction, killings and harassment of Swapo supporters become the order of the day and people are being forcibly removed from their areas and herded into the so-called Home Lands, like animals. These areas serve as dumping grounds for those people who are not wanted by the capitalist economy.

In the face of the rising tide of National liberation struggle being waged by the gallant liberation fighters of Namibia under their vanguard SWAPO of Namibia the imperialist forces are fighting hard to clinch on their privilege

ges and power. And it here comrades and friends that there should be unity, solidarity and cooperation among all progressive forces the world over, to see to it that all form of exploitation, domination, racism and imperialism around the world is done away with.

Today the exploitation of Namibian natural resources continues despite the UN Decree No 1 of 1974 which forbids anyone to exploit, use, sell or refine Namibian mineral resources without the UN concern. Britain is particularly unique in this respect. Britain continues to exploit and import Namibian uranium illegally in this country. One has to understand why. The reason is very simple. Capitalism and imperialism consider profit as its first priority to human lives. Here we appeal especially to the Greenham Common women who have been for quite some time now raising the political awareness among the British people over the danger the cruise missiles in Britain could pose. The fact is that they should not look at their fight in isolation but should see this in the context of Namibian uranium exploitation.

Your support to SWAPO of Namibia, your support to ANC of SA is highly appreciated because it is here where racism is at its highest. Both Namibia and South Africa are yearning for freedom. ... The struggle continues.

Mehrzad Organisation of Iranian Students, Supporters of OIPFG

At present in Iran no bourgeois alternative can meet the just demands of the Iranian people... only a proletarian programme can meet these demands and only proletarian leadership can ensure that they are materialised...

... the fate of the revolution of all oppressed people of the world however diverse the circumstances may be it is one and the same struggle, that is for democracy and socialism and against imperialism.

Eddie Abrahams Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

The fundamental problem facing the workers and oppressed peoples of the world is imperialism and racism. A tiny group... of imperialist nations, their banks and multinationals, plunder the countries of Africa, of Asia, of Latin America, of their natural resources and the wealth produced by their labouring masses... Central to this vile and despicable system is British imperialism...

The story is not only that of repression, of barbarism and of blood, the story also, as we have heard this evening, is the story of heroic and courageous resistance by millions upon millions of people against imperialism...

What unites all these struggles... is that they face in their struggles for justice

and democracy a common enemy, imperialism, and British imperialism in particular. That is what makes those struggles, comrades, but one part, one front of a united international anti-imperialist struggle. A single endeavour to break the chains of oppression, poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease and suffering which bind the massive majority of humanity...

Our enemy that we are fighting in Britain is the very same enemy that the oppressed peoples are fighting... We recognise that there can be no progress, no advance towards socialism in this country unless we take our stand in the task of building a united movement against racism and imperialism...

Talal Lebanese National Movement

Mr Chairman, comrades, brothers and sisters, allow me first to thank you for this opportunity to address this lively meeting on behalf of your comrades who defeated the American imperialists first by throwing them to the sea, and second by obliging them even to leave the sea of Lebanon (Loud applause).

It is particularly important for me to speak on this platform alongside comrades and sisters from various organisations. It is an honour to the Lebanese National Movement that I represent them at this meeting...

The Lebanese Armed Resistance Front which was created by the

Michael Holden ACTT Shop Steward

Comrades first of all I'd like to say how very honoured I am to be here with you here tonight. It's a great honour for me. I've never been to a meeting like this, so enthusiastic, it's really fabulous...

Comrades and friends, if we are to be very honest we must acknowledge one thing and that is the failure of trade unionism and trade unionists in Britain to identify with the Irish struggle, to identify with black trade unionists in South Africa and Africa generally against racism and oppression, with the Palestinian peoples' struggle which has given the British state the encouragement it has needed to introduce legislation like the PTA, Police Bill etc, and attack picketing miners up and down the country and the Greenham Common women as well. That is why... we as workers, as trade unionists, or as students, must, if we are to be successful, unite together as anti-imperialists to organise resistance to the PTA, the Police Bill and that kind of legislation.

Lebanese National Movement had an objective to fight against the Zionist invasion, to fight against American imperialism and to fight against Western imperialism, because one has to remember that the American existence in Lebanon was supported by British and French imperialism...

Our people refused the negotiations from the beginning between the Phalangist government and the Israeli troops, sponsored obviously by the United States imperialists, since we knew from the beginning that such a negotiation would only lead to total surrender by the Lebanese government. And obviously the agreement which was signed on 17 May was an agreement which would reveal the total subservience and surrender of the Phalangist enforced government of Lebanon to the Zionist invaders.

Since the signing of the agreement of the 17 May 1983, the uprising of the people of the South has been permanent... The day of the signature of the agreement, the whole South of Lebanon was on strike. Israel behaved exactly as the Nazis behaved during the occupation of Czechoslovakia and other parts of eastern Europe...

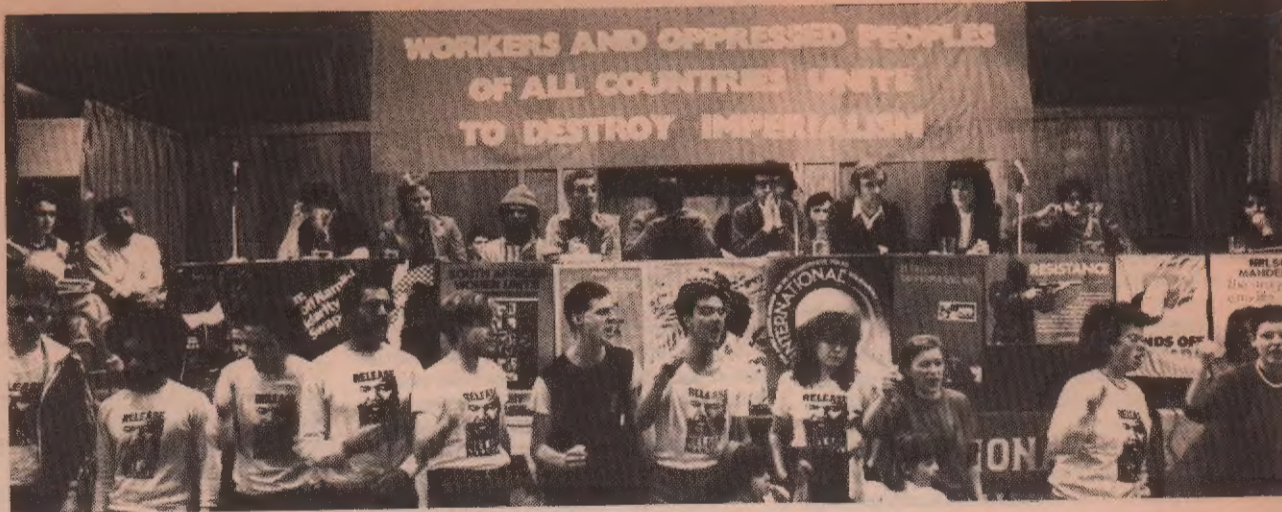
Our people in the South are treated in a very bad way. Every day Israelis randomly loot, kill and detain civilians. Yet no single word from international opinion. I ask you to condemn strongly the silence of the western media and the western governments towards the genocide in the South of Lebanon perpetrated by Zionist troops. Victory will be for the Lebanese people. Victory will be for all national liberation movements. Victory will be for the miners in this country, and for the working class.

anti-

On the weekend of 14 and 15 May, the heartland of imperialism, anti-racist organisations, many parts of the world, Imperialism'.

Over 300 people attended. Beneath a banner proclaiming 'World Unite to Destroy Imperialism', anti-imperialist, democratic and enthusiastic meetings were held in Ireland, South Africa and... Below we print extracts...

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE TO DESTROY IMPERIALISM



Sue Wilson Women for Palestine

We feel it is of crucial importance to encourage the left to break its historically strong links with Zionism and to build contact and strong support for the Palestinian labour and trade union movement. This means breaking the British trade union links with the so-called trade union Histadrut which is in fact the second largest employer in Israel.

Norma Kitson

While the South African liberation movements are fighting for their lives it's become even more important to build a strong solidarity movement in this country. Britain is one of apartheid's main backers. It's important that we build a solidarity movement that will draw in the widest support of all people in Britain, a solidarity movement that will be active on the streets of Britain among the people who are oppressed, who will support the struggle.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! for the work they have done in the struggle. Because there is action behind their words.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o Kenyan writer and revolutionary

Thank you very much for the welcome, and the introduction which correctly speaks about the historical situation in Kenya. Tonight I am speaking in my capacity as a writer from a Third World country and in my view the Third World are all those countries whose economy, politics and culture have been and continue to be dominated by imperialism. It is very important for all liberation movements to understand this, because sometimes a failure to understand this has resulted in some liberation movements being hijacked by imperialism, as happened to my own country, Kenya.

So I will take Kenya, my own country as an example. Kenya regained her independence in 1963 after more than 60 years of British colonial rule. Although I say 'regained her independence' I mean she got the right to sing a national anthem and to hold a flag. (Applause) The British settler regime had seized people's land, introduced forced labour in the huge plantations, and slave wages in the new industries, and enforced a ruthless taxation system on Kenyans to finance the settlers. The economic ex-

ploitation could only be enforced by political repression and police terror as has been described to you.

But economic and political control were not complete without cultural control, that is mental control. So they suppressed Kenyan people's culture while through the English language and educational institutions they tried to impose values of subservience to imperialism. They created a corporative elite imbued with a colonial mentality whilst suppressing the seeds of a system contained in people's culture. But Kenyan people fought back. The peak of all the anti-colonial resistance movements in the different nationalities at the different times in Kenyan history, were the Kenya Land and Freedom Army - otherwise known as Mau Mau - which waged a ten year armed struggle. This, plus the mass struggle of Kenyan workers, finally forced the British to concede some sort of independence.

But the new independent government, or rather this government which was able to sing a national anthem and hold a national flag, was manned and

NO NATION CAN BE FREE IF IT

Imperialist Rally

On 15 April London witnessed a unique event. In the heart of London here in Britain, FRFI and other democratic and socialist groups joined together with liberation movements from all over the world under the banner 'Unite to Fight Racism and

to hold the anti-imperialist rally in the Conway Hall. Claiming 'Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World Against Imperialism' 13 representatives from communist, socialist and anti-racist movements in a lively, noisy and energetic way urged all present to unite to fight racism and imperialism. The City Group singers sang liberation songs from all over the world from the socialist movement. The rally was filled with the speeches and solidarity messages.

OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE TO DESTROY IMPERIALISM

run by a corporative, servile elite, born out of the colonial past and which saw its future in terms of a willing messenger of imperialism. The new government did not make even a token attempt to break with imperialism.

The colonial economic structures and social institutions remained. The masses sank deeper into poverty even as this tiny elite joined the ranks of Euro-American multinational board-rooms to facilitate, for a handsome commission, the smooth operations of United States, British, West German and Japanese economic interests. The Moi regime sealed this dependence by giving military facilities to the United States of America. Kenya has therefore joined the front line states of the United States of America in American war games.

Because there were no meaningful economic and political changes in Kenya, because there was no break with imperialism, the regime has become more and more politically isolated from the people. In order to maintain themselves in power they have resorted to the same colonial tactics they had learned, i.e. political repression and rule through police terror.

Today in Kenya more than five people constitute in law a public assembly and need a police license. Today in Kenya, to discuss the possibility of the death of the President through illness, old age or any other cause is a treasonable offence and carries a mandatory death sentence.

But as in the colonial past, from which the Kenyan regime draws its vision of the future, political control was accompanied by cultural repression. In 1982, this same Moi regime embarked on a campaign of cultural repression with the banning of performances of plays deemed critical of the social evils in the country. The destruction of people's theatre, the arrest and detention without trial of university lecturers, students or others imprisoned on framed up charges. The police raids on libraries and a 14 month closure of the only university in the country. And even

the police went to the extent of stopping art exhibitions in peasant villages.

These political prisoners are still languishing in Kenyan prisons. Living under very inhuman conditions. Today one of them, Maina wa Kinyatti, who is a foremost historian of the Mau Mau era is losing his eyesight in prison. I would ask all of the people who are here, and those who are outside here, to really make a determined effort to save the eyesight of Maina wa Kinyatti.



But even more barbarous, was what happened not last year, but two months ago. The Kenyan regime sent its security forces to the northern part of Kenya, where there is an Israeli built air force, and they collected 5,000 people of northern Kenya and put the prisoners in sand without water or food for three days. When some of the people tried to resist they shot in cold blood more than 300 people. Today, according to very reliable reports, more than a thousand people from the north of Kenya were killed, a thousand others are missing and even three thousand others are still unaccounted for. This is what is happening in Kenya today.

This massacre in the north of Kenya has not elicited any protests from the so-called defenders of democracy. So that as long as western interests are served, as long as there are swimming pools and international hotels on the coast which seem as if they have been conjured out



Lorna Morgan
Irish Solidarity Movement

We will unite with anyone who supports the democratic rights of the Irish people for self-determination. We say that Ireland and solidarity with the Irish revolution is the acid test for all socialists and anti-imperialists. Until the working class actively stands in solidarity with the Irish people against British imperialism we can never be free from the oppressor at home which exercises its oppression of anybody opposed to its murder machine, through the brutal and racist police, courts and prison system.

Working Peoples of Guyana Support Group

On behalf of the people of Guyana under siege from the brutal regime of Forbes Burnham, the Working Peoples of Guyana Support Group brings revolutionary greetings to this meeting, and particularly to the people of Southern Africa. We and the people of Guyana are in solidarity with the struggle for liberation being waged by the people of Namibia and their vanguard organisation SWAPO in Southern Africa and will continue to support revolutionary movements so engaged.

of the fairy world of James Bond, as long as these are available to western tourists, the Kenyan regime can go on massacring innocents without voices being raised by the so-called defenders of democracy.

As a result of that massacre there was very tame protest from 14 ambassadors of western countries. But even then they had gone to plead with the regime to be allowed to give more aid. So there was no murmur of protest against the repression. There was no call for the release of political prisoners. There was no call for restoration of democracy.

So, friends, in 1952 what the British had done to Kenyans, the methods they had developed in suppressing the guerrilla armed struggle of the Mau Mau - these methods were later to be used in Ireland and other places. (Applause). Today, Kenya as a result of giving military facilities to the United States of America, is part of the imperialist chain linking South Africa and Israel in the Middle East. So that I want us to really know the nature of the Kenyan regime today. I make a special appeal to all anti-imperialists and anti-racist organisations and movements to protest in the strongest possible terms to the Kenyan regime, to the High Commission here or by writing to the President of the Republic calling for the release of the university lecturers, the students, and all the other political prisoners, and calling for an end to the massacre of innocents.

To end my intervention today, since I see that people are singing songs calling for liberation, I would like to recite some words of songs which were sung by peasants and workers at the Kamirithu Community Education and Cultural Centre which was destroyed by the Kenyan regime in 1962. In one of the plays which they used to do, called I will marry when I want, the peasants and the workers used to sing:

Come my friend
Come my friend
Let's reason together.

Dipak Basu
Asian Collective of East London.

...the Indian national struggle... is deeply indebted to the Irish freedom struggle. They inspired us all through the 18th century, 19th century and 20th century...

...to be free from oppression we do not have any other choice but to identify with all the anti-imperialist struggles all over the world.

I congratulate Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism for bringing this rally here...

Sean Mac Stiofain
Chief of Staff IRA
1969-1972

Congratulations to all involved in the anti-imperialist weekend. Such a rally, held in the heart of imperialism, involving representatives of the oppressed of this earth is a significant step towards the establishment of a principled worldwide anti-imperialist movement.

Our common revolutionary struggle in Ireland, Southern Africa, in Palestine, in Lebanon, Central America and elsewhere must benefit from your deliberations this historic weekend. An Reabhlaid Abu (Long live the revolution) Sean Mac Stiofain

Gerry MacLochlainn
Sinn Fein Britain

Comrades, brothers and sisters, a cairde. I would like to thank Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! in the first place on behalf of Sinn Fein. It's a great honour to stand alongside the representatives of liberation movements from all parts of the globe as I have the honour to do today. As was mentioned, having been given that great honour of being sent to a British gaol, and to me that is an honour, I can say to you that I can bring the greetings of all the Irish Republican prisoners of war who remain in British gaols. (Applause) Greetings to all the liberation movements and all the freedom struggles that are represented on

this platform today. Liberation struggles from Africa, from Europe, America and of course from Asia...

The Irish people know only too well what that racism and what imperialism means. We have faced it for centuries. And the lessons we have learned in those centuries we are putting into practice in our freedom struggle, and we will be putting into practice very shortly when Reagan, the representative of American imperialism, sets foot in Ireland. He'll be given a real Irish welcome. (Applause)...

...And to the miners today in Britain who are beginning to learn what imperialism is about at first hand, who are actually beginning to learn what British policing means. Who are beginning to learn it the same way as we did in Belfast and the Bogside, the way people of Toxteth and Brixton learned it, are beginning to learn what British policing is, are beginning to learn what British democracy is. And we are appealing to them. This is one struggle, it's one fight. We appeal to you to join us. Together we can change this world. Together we can destroy imperialism. Today if we unite, if all the struggles for freedom unite, we can destroy imperialism, and in doing so we might change the name of a certain newspaper, because together we can fight racism and smash imperialism. Venceramos! Amandla!

Paula Smith
Greenham Common

At last I think that our struggle is being recognised that it is not only against cruise missiles and that we see cruise missiles as the ultimate and final threat of violence imposed by oppressors. We want to make links with struggles all over the world against oppression.

Reinstate Sri-Asokamala Campaign

The Reinstate Sri-Asokamala Campaign brings its greetings to this Rally and extends its solidarity with the liberation struggles in Africa, Asia, Central America, the Middle-East, and Latin America. In particular, we congratulate Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism for its tireless fight against the dark and barbaric forces of British imperialism and national oppression.

Hemel Hempstead ACTT

The Committee and members of the Hemel Hempstead Branch of ACTT send fraternal greetings and good wishes to assembled delegates and supporters of the anti-imperialist weekend at Conway Hall on April 14th. And at Canton House on April 15th. We wish you a successful weekend. Fraternal good wishes, ACTT Convenor (Len Watson)

OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE TO DESTROY IMPERIALISM

continued from page 7

Communists therefore support all national liberation struggles against imperialism, recognising that a blow struck against imperialism anywhere in the world is in the interests of the working class as a whole.

For Britain the two important anti-imperialist struggles which have an immediate impact on British imperialism today are those in Ireland and Southern Africa.

VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE

The fact that no significant solidarity movement in support of the right of the Irish people to self-determination exists is a heightened expression of the extreme backwardness of the British working class movement. For the most direct revolutionary challenge to British imperialism has come from Ireland.

The reactionary pressures of opportunist currents – the Labour Party and the organised trade union movement – has meant that only tiny groups of communists and other supporters of the Republican Movement have been prepared to organise in any way on the Irish question – and then, we have to add, to little effect.

Practice has shown that only an organised communist current in Britain is prepared to play the leading role in building a solidarity movement in support of the Irish people's struggle for self-determination. No one else will do this unless this lead is given – without such a development the struggle for socialism in Britain has no substance whatsoever. You, comrades and friends, if you claim to be socialists, have an urgent duty to join us in the RCG to carry out this enormous and difficult task.

SMASH APARTHEID NOW!

Many more people are prepared to condemn British imperialism's crucial economic and political support for the South African racist apartheid state. Some have even joined the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

British imperialism exacts enormous profit from the brutal exploitation of black people in South Africa – this determines the British government's attitude to South Africa both Labour and Tory alike.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement, like most political movements in Britain, is limited in its actions by the role of opportunist currents which at present control its leadership.

As the struggle in South Africa has intensified, as the armed struggle has grown, as British imperialism's role in

to 'perfectly legitimate activities of the OAU-recognised liberation movements based in Britain'. 'It's okay for the Irish to be harassed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act – we don't support them'. It is no doubt okay for Central Americans, Arabs and Asians etc to be harassed under the PTA, but not for those movements which the AAM supports.

Such a position is absolutely untenable for anybody supporting liberation movements anywhere in the world. Little wonder that these same people who lead the Anti-Apartheid Movement now talk about the concessions the South Africans have forced on Mozambique and Angola, as an advance.

It is not an advance. It's a massive setback to the liberation movement in South Africa, and that setback has occurred partly because there has been no mobilisation of any significant size in this country to oppose the activities of the South African racist state. Those people who limit activities in the Anti-Apartheid Movement to what is acceptable to their Labour Party friends are just as responsible as the British government.

Such a standpoint that exists at the present time in the leadership of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, cannot really offer solidarity to movements like SWAPO and the ANC fighting a life and death struggle against the imperialist-backed apartheid state. Solidarity cannot be limited by the interests of privileged layers of the working class in Britain. That is why an organised communist current has to be built to work in solidarity with those movements fighting imperialism in Southern Africa. That is why comrades and friends who support the freedom struggle in Southern Africa, we ask you to join with us so an anti-imperialist movement can be built in Britain in support of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

So our first major point in relation to Britain is – the need to build an anti-imperialist current in the working class, in particular, in relation to the struggles of the Irish and Southern African peoples for freedom. This is the pre-condition for undermining the hold of opportunist currents in the working class and laying the foundations for the struggle for socialism in Britain.

WHO WILL LEAD THE STRUGGLE?

Our second major point in relation to Britain is that we must concentrate our work among the less privileged sections of the working class – among those sections of the working class which have no ties to imperialism.

The greatest threat to British imperialism in this period is a movement which unites the struggle of the working class in Britain with the struggle against racism and national oppression both at home and abroad. The conditions for this already exist.

Imperialism has recreated an oppressed layer of the working class in the heartland of imperialism itself. Black and immigrant workers were brought into Britain to do the worst paid jobs under the worst conditions. They suffer a dual oppression both from racism and class exploitation, suffering the brunt of the imperialist crisis, poverty, unemployment and racism. They are forced

into direct confrontation with the imperialist state. They not only have no ties to imperialism but represent a political force which can unite the struggle of the working class in the imperialist countries with the anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation throughout the world.

The 1981 uprisings led by black youth were the most serious challenge faced by the British state since the onset of this crisis.

That uprising was eventually put down by physical repression, 4,000 arrests, 700 jailed, by the failure of the organised British working class to support the uprisings and defend those arrested, and by black opportunist currents, many closely allied to the Labour Party, who deserted the youth who were arrested, and limited the campaigns in their defence to what was acceptable to their respectable friends in the Labour Party.

'Opportunism is our principal enemy. Opportunism in the upper ranks of the working class movement is not proletarian socialism but bourgeois socialism.'

Lenin

That is just as unacceptable to us as communists, as the leadership of the AAM limiting its activities in solidarity with the South Africa struggle in order to satisfy its friends in the Labour and trade union movement.

But the conditions which gave rise to the uprisings – police harassment, racism, unemployment – have not disappeared; on the contrary they have got worse. Inevitably the struggle will be revived and reach new heights. This time it is important that organised communist forces exist which will fight alongside the youth and with them begin the process of creating a more sustained anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement in Britain. That is why comrades and friends there is an urgent political need to build a communist current amongst the youth now – that is why you must join us.

The miners' struggle taking place at this very moment demonstrates all the fundamental features of working class struggle in this period. It necessarily reflects the split in the working class movement: What is important is that a section of miners have determinedly fought to prevent the more privileged sections of miners – the better paid, working in highly productive pits – from dictating the nature of the struggle. It is the miners whose jobs are under threat who for once are calling the tune and attempting to force the more privileged miners to join the struggle to defend all jobs.

Normally in trade union struggles the state and the bosses, using their media, are able to rely on the opportunist currents in the struggle to hold back those fighting – this time because of the determination of a section of miners, that strategy has failed. And so we have seen the real response of our so-called democratic state. We have seen the organised power of the state brought to bear in a massive police operation designed to physically crush the miners struggle. If the opportunists cannot do the job, then the ruling class has made it clear, they will use in the struggle the forces of repression that they have been building up over the years. Forces which have learned the lessons of Ireland will be used to crush the struggle physically.

Little wonder that the lessons are being drawn. We hear talk of paramilitary police using actions that are normally associated with police activity in South Africa and Ireland. Scargill wrote in an article in the *Morning Star* 'Brixton, Toxteth and St Pauls were warning shots that injustice and inequality could only be pushed so far.' But the point is, however, the failure of British trade unionists to unite with black people in South Africa against British imperialist-backed apartheid, the failure to unite with the Irish people against British imperialist rule, the failure to unite with the youth of 1981 against the racist British police, has aided the strengthening and perfection of the machinery of repression which is now turned against the miners.

These lessons are being driven home today. The RCG has unfortunately no links with miners, so we can have no direct influence or impact on their struggles and other struggles of a similar character that contain within them all the issues we raise. Again, comrades and friends, it shows the necessity of building a sizable communist organisation in Britain now, that can push such struggles in an anti-imperialist direc-

tion. That will mean that next time sections of trade unionists will see the need to defend the struggles of oppressed peoples against imperialism, will see the need to defend black youth against the police, in order this time to defend themselves.

HANDS OFF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES!

Finally, I want to say something about the socialist countries and other parts of the world that are no longer open to direct exploitation by imperialism.

The imperialists recognise that one possible solution to their crisis would be the reconquest and impoverishment of the socialist countries. That is why they have begun an anti-communist crusade and new cold war. At a time when the world capitalist crisis is driving millions more into poverty, the imperialists are determined to prevent other countries

following the example of the socialist countries.

They know that the support the socialist countries give to the liberation movements represents a major obstacle to imperialist exploitation of these countries. The imperialists care nothing for democracy, economic advance, the health and education of the peoples of these countries. That is why they want to destroy socialist Cuba. That is why they invaded and occupied revolutionary Grenada. That is why they back the campaign of racist South Africa to destroy Mozambique and Angola. Why are they so terrified of Nicaragua? Because it exposes the reality of imperialism and imperialist freedom. It shows the superiority of socialist advance. It shows what is possible in a world that is free from imperialism. The freedom the imperialists want and are forever talking about is the freedom to exploit and oppress the peoples of this world in the interests of profits – they will support fascist regimes if it serves their purpose.

The imperialists will stop at nothing to get their way and that is why we must support the socialist countries' right to defend the gains of their revolutions whatever steps they consider necessary.

That is why, comrades and friends we defend the right of the Soviet Union to come to the aid of the Afghan government. And that is why we defend the right of the Polish government to take the measures they saw as necessary to prevent counter-revolution in Poland. It is a question of which side you are on. Are you with the imperialists or are you against the imperialists? That is the question we have to answer in relation to the socialist countries.

The socialist countries have no interest in war – they have however been forced to divert massive resources to defence in order to meet imperialist aggression.

Let us remember, when we listen to those who criticise the socialist countries for building up their defence capability that it is the US imperialists who have 1,500 overseas bases and have their armed forces on 282 occasions since the Second World War to pursue their imperialist interests. Let us remember that British imperialism has 38 out of 39 years since 1945, has British soldiers killed on active service overseas – that is oppressing the peoples of oppressed nations. This shows the racist lie of Thatcher/Reagan when they claim that nuclear weapons prevent war.

Socialism, whose basic economic objective is the development of the productive forces and the equitable distribution of the fruits of labour, absolutely no need for wars, for conquering the world or for an arms buildup. The planned development of the economy and basic human requirements no way necessitate the investment of enormous human and material resources in a sterile arms race.

Only when imperialism has been destroyed will the threat of war be removed and humanity be able to use its resources to build a socialist society. That, comrades and friends, is what we are communists.

That, comrades and friends, is what you should join us. Imperialism is destroyed if humanity is to survive. The communist road is the only road.

David Reed



Irish liberation songs being performed at FRFI's Anti-Imperialist Weekend commemoration in Wood Green of the 1916 Easter Rising. Over 50 supporters participated. As well as songs, speeches and slogans, FRFI supporters performed street theatre sketches condemning the use of informers in the Six Counties. Over 350 people bought FRFI.

The fact that the British people stood idly by and watched ten heroic Irish revolutionaries slowly murdered by the British state shows how far we have to go. But we ignore the Irish question at our peril.

Reaction has considerably strengthened in Britain under the Thatcher government with little or no opposition from the British working class. The appointment of Newman and Kitson to the head of Metropolitan Police and UK Land Forces respectively indicates what the ruling class has in store. Both these men were responsible for torture of opposition forces in Ireland.

The extension of the racist anti-Irish PTA to cover 'suspected international terrorists of any group, cause or nationality' threatens political movements fighting imperialism anywhere, not just Ireland, and especially any challenging British imperialist interests anywhere in the world. That was passed without any real opposition.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will extend police powers to detain people for 96 hours, set up road blocks, stop and search people on 'reasonable suspicion' etc – a major attack on democratic rights. With the Prevention of Terrorism Act in its new form, police in this country will have the kind of sweeping powers they have in the occupied Six Counties of Ireland.

I could go on; however suffice it to say that the national police action against the striking miners has all the hallmarks of Kenneth Newman and the tactics developed in Ireland, without any opposition from the British working class. Little wonder Tony Benn was forced to say recently in Parliament on the miners dispute:

'I believe what the government has done here is bring the police tactics of Northern Ireland into the heart of Britain.'

The point is that the same Tony Benn did not vote against the PTA when it was introduced. The same Tony Benn refused to speak out against the murder of ten Irish hunger strikers. The same Tony Benn sat in numerous cabinet meetings while the oppression and torture of Irish people went on.

backing the apartheid regime is more and more exposed, so have these opportunist currents been forced to limit the extent of solidarity actions:

- the boycott of Rowntrees' products demanded by black workers in South Africa and by SAAWU (South African Allied Workers Union) was not fully supported because it was argued that it would lead to a loss of jobs;
- attempts to draw the link between racism in Britain and South Africa is 'causing trouble' – someone might realise that the Labour Party's record on both is appalling and begin to ask why;
- the links of the AAM leadership with the Labour Party meant that it refused to oppose the extended PTA now covering all liberation movements – but in a cowardly and backward fashion pleaded that it not apply



A scene from FRFI's Anti-Imperialist Weekend picket of the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square. It called for the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and 'Victory to SWAPO!' Over 70 FRFI, City AA and other supporters joined the spirited songs and speeches condemning the Apartheid regime.

NICARAGUA attempt to isolate revolution

US imperialism has launched its most sustained and biggest military offensive against the Sandinista revolution. In April, 8,000 CIA organised mercenaries invaded Nicaragua from sanctuaries in Honduras and Costa Rica. The CIA has reorganised and taken direct command of the counter-revolutionary FDN and ARDE who since January have intensified their terrorism and sabotage against civilian and economic targets causing hundreds of deaths and over \$28m damage. In February, the CIA attempted to blockade Nicaragua by mining her ports, including the port of Corinto which handles 80% of the country's imports and exports. At the time warehouses in Corinto were stocked with the recently harvested coffee and cotton crops. 11 ships were severely damaged, including a Panamanian freighter carrying 2,500 tons of baby food and a Soviet oil tanker.

The mining of Nicaragua's harbours was a breach of international law and an 'act of war' even according to extreme right wing US Senator Barry Goldwater. Imperialism however will evoke international law only when it suits its own interests. A few months ago President Reagan threatened Iran with the US Rapid Deployment Force if Iran mined the Straits of Hormuz, the passageway for

oil supplies to the imperialist nations. Yet he approved the mining of Nicaraguan ports, and his representative at the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick vetoed a Security Council Resolution condemning it. British imperialism which promised to back up the RDF in Iran also backed the US at the United Nations by abstaining on the vote. The readiness of imperialism to cast aside all constitutionalism

Brazil

ELECTIONS NOW

'Diretas já' (direct elections now): the words are chanted in the soccer stadiums, flashed upon the electronic scoreboards, printed on T-shirts, badges and bumper-stickers. On 10 April one million people filled the streets of Rio de Janeiro singing the words to a samba rhythm, clenching their fists and punching the sky. Leonel Brizola, governor of Rio, felt the passion and declared 'the history of Brazil will be divided between what happened before and what happened after this demonstration'. A week later public transport in Sao Paulo was declared free for the day and 1.7 million voices reverberated through the city centre 'diretas já'. Banners were waved 'Enough of exploitation - out with the IMF'.

The US *Newsweek* magazine remarked that a sleeping giant was awakening. The *Financial Times* thought it prudent to defer to the new Brazilian colossus, suggesting to the twenty year old military government that they yield to the demand for direct presidential elections. In a National Congress vote on 25 April. Mindful of the \$100bn debt the imperialist banks are waiting to be repaid by Brazil the *Financial Times* gave its touching advice, 'It is vital that whatever sacrifices need to be taken by Brazil in order to meet its foreign obligations, be imposed by the president who enjoys the support of the broadest possible sector of the population'. Just five years ago these same publications were trumpeting the success of the Brazilian 'economic miracle'; now they are reduced to wishing for some miracle of statecraft to ensure the continued flow of wealth out of Brazil to the imperialist metropolises.

Rio's and Sao Paulo's demonstrations are the response of the Brazilian people to the impoverishment forced upon them by IMF orders. Peasants are starving, workers are looting city food stores, and the middle class is finding its privileges undermined. Inflation is running at 230%, food prices rising at 310%, while wages are being reduced in real value rising at 175%. Curbs on wage increases and cuts in food subsidies were imposed by the IMF through the military government in March 1983. The fall in the real value of wages increases the surplus value available to capital, which then transfers it to the banks in New York, London etc. These banks are 'now receiving about \$12bn a year in interest. Brazilians are becoming poorer while the banks are making unprecedented profits' (*Guardian*).

The Brazilian ruling class and its military government is trapped between the

rising masses and the imperialist banks. Confusion and division threaten its ranks as sections wriggle and writhe to distance themselves from the military establishment in an effort to court popularity. In this context the Congressional vote on the direct elections amendment took place behind a military siege of the capital Brasilia. A week before the vote the city was placed under a state of emergency, rigid censorship introduced, the university closed and the police given powers to search homes without warrants. Three days before the vote 8,000 troops with tanks and armoured cars were paraded through Brasilia. These measures were intended to intimidate any politicians thinking of voting for the amendment and to isolate the capital from the will of the masses. Even under these conditions, and with a carefully rigged Congress, defections from the government resulted in a narrow defeat for the amendment - it narrowly failed to reach the two-thirds majority required. Opposition politicians rose in indignation shouting 'The dictatorship faces defeat with the people in the street'.

Any defeat for the military will be a defeat for imperialism. All opposition politicians have been forced to demand an ending of debt repayments for 3 to 5 years. Such a move in favour of the Brazilian people would be a shuddering blow to the imperialist finance system. The *Guardian*, sensing the urgency and menace of the situation for international capital, warned of the need for rapid political changes in Brazil lest 'new and genuinely frightening figures might begin to emerge'. That figure is emerging, it is the Brazilian oppressed people and its dimensions will reach out far beyond the thronging exalted demonstrations of Rio and Sao Paulo.

Trevor Rayne



and law when these prove an obstacle to its counter-revolutionary designs was further demonstrated when the US informed the World Court that it will not accept its jurisdiction if it went against the US.

To 'justify' its aggression against a popular democratic revolution which has made massive strides forward for the workers and peasants of Nicaragua, US imperialism is dredging up long exposed lies. Kirkpatrick said the mining:

'...is legal because Nicaragua is engaged in a process of armed aggression against her neighbours.'

Of course she had not a shred of evidence to back up this absurd assertion. Neither did President Reagan when he claimed that:

'...Nicaragua is exporting revolution to El Salvador... and is helping supporting, arming and training the guerrillas...'

The current military offensive coincides with the opening of the campaign for the November Nicaraguan elections. And it is no accident. US imperialism is

aware that her pro-imperialist bourgeois allies will be trounced at the ballot box and that the Sandinista revolution will win yet another mandate to rule. So real is this knowledge that the pro-imperialist parties are now beginning to boycott the elections. Unable to achieve its counter-revolutionary ends by political means, US imperialism is preparing by terror, economic strangulation and war to overturn the democratic wishes of the immense majority of Nicaraguans. Right now, 30,000 US troops are conducting military exercises in Honduras and on Nicaraguan shores practising for an invasion of the country. The CIA is training and equipping, with the best arms, 14,000 contras. It is flying reconnaissance missions over Nicaraguan territory, has installed headquarters, communications facilities and storage facilities for bombs and ammunition in Palmerola air base in Honduras. These forces are being prepared for use not only against revolutionary Nicaragua but also against the FMLN in El Salvador.

That the Reagan Administration, with virtually no significant opposition, can lay siege to Nicaragua, harness its mighty apparatus against a democratic revolutionary government and flout all international law with the vilest hypocrisy and lies, is due to the complicity and silence of the US organised labour movement. The AFL-CIO, like the TUC in relation to British imperialist oppression of the Irish people, actively collaborates with US imperialism's foreign plundering adventures and counter-revolutionary manoeuvres.

Today, as the severest threat is posed to the Nicaraguan revolution, and therefore to anti-imperialist forces worldwide, it is the bounden duty of communists, anti-imperialists and democrats to oppose all US intervention in Nicaragua and Central America.

Eddie Abrahams

Dominican Republic

oppressed say no to IMF

The poor and the youth took to the streets in the Dominican Republic after the President announced price increases in basic items of up to 300% in order to secure an IMF loan. The riots lasted for three days as the poor ransacked supermarkets, shops and banks in Santo Domingo the capital and other towns. These demonstrations against the parasitical IMF were viciously repressed, with at least eighty people killed and over 5,000 arrested.



The Dominican Republic and other nations in the Caribbean have seen their economies crushed under the weight of the imperialist crisis. The Dominican Republic is receiving a \$466m loan from the IMF to overcome short-term financial difficulties because the country cannot earn enough money from its exports of sugar, bananas and bauxite. The prices of these are at present low. Cash is also needed from the international banks - a loan of \$800m - to help service its debt of \$2.6bn. The banks are waiting in turn behind the IMF. The IMF loan comes as a 'package' deal of increased austerity designed to squeeze the poor and oppressed. Consequently on 19 April Pres-

ident Jorge Blanco announced increases in basic foodstuffs, beans from 30 cents a pound to 65 cents and cooking oil from \$9.75 a gallon to \$25 a gallon.

The riots began on 25 April. On the same day 19 years ago in 1965 the Dominican Republic was invaded by 20,000 US marines to crush a rising by democrats fighting for the republic's 1963 constitution. Since that time, with low wages, company unions and very low taxation on capital, the Dominican Republic has become dominated by US imperialism. Gulf and Western (a giant US multinational) owns 2% of the national territory in a country where only 14% of the land is cultivated. Gulf and Western

inbrief

● Revolutionary May Day

Central and Latin American workers celebrated May Day 1984 with massive demonstrations against imperialism and local puppets.

In Honduras, which has been transformed into a US military base for aggression against Nicaragua, 50,000 workers marched to the slogan 'Yankee Go Home!' Speakers denounced the pro-imperialist government of Roberto Cordova which is also trying to destroy Honduran trade unions. They also called for the immediate expulsion of the CIA-backed 'contras'.

In El Salvador, 2,000 workers defied the state of siege and fascist death squads and marched through the capital San Salvador. This was a significant step forward for the working class which in the capital has been subjected to the worst and most terrifying repression.

In Chile, 15,000 workers marched through Santiago demanding the resignation of dictator Pinochet and undeterred by riot police who fired tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon into the demonstration. Scores of youth fought a two-hour battle against the police thereby showing that they will not be cowed by the regime's bullets which have killed hundreds over the past 18 months.

In El Salvador the demonstration was the first in four years. In Chile it was the first May Day Celebration in 10 years and in Honduras it was the largest for many years. Despite the increasing repression the workers in these countries are stepping up their struggle against imperialism and its local puppet capitalist class. In doing so they can teach British workers many a lesson.

● Chile: Forward to the General Strike

27 March saw the resumption of mass protests against the Pinochet regime in Chile. The protests brought together all sections of the population - shanty-town dwellers, trade unionists, small business men, transport workers and lorry drivers, and professional groups. Seven people were killed, including a 15-day-old baby from the effects of tear-gas, and some 400 people were arrested.

This day of protest called by the National Workers Command was in preparation for a general strike to be called later in the year.

After the protest two leading opponents of the regime were exiled to Brazil. This action against Jaime Insunza, General Secretary of the Democratic People's Movement (MPD), and Dr Leopoldo Ortega of the Chilean Human Rights Commission, follows the imprisonment of MPD leader Manuel Almeyda in February. It points to an attempt to deprive the Chilean working class of its leadership.

Fascist terrorists are also used against Pinochet's opponents. On 20 March Democratic Alliance leader Jorge Lavandero was nearly clubbed to death in a Santiago street by a group called the Armed Anti-Communist Alliance. Also in March a bomb was left at the home of Friar Jorge Hourton with a note 'Communist priests get out of Chile'.

The terror and repression used against the Chilean people has not thwarted their desire for democracy. Forward to the General Strike!
Nigel Doyle

exports the tobacco, sugar, winter vegetables and beef produced in the Dominican Republic to the United States. It also owns multi-million dollar tourist complexes. After Puerto Rico the Dominican Republic is the second largest market for US goods in the Caribbean and the US takes two-thirds of the country's exports. The conditions in the country have led to over 500,000 people emigrating to live in the United States taking their place alongside the oppressed.

Jamaica and Guyana are seeking loans from the IMF. The oppressed Caribbean have made their demand clear in the streets of the Dominican Republic. They will take no more!

Nigel Doyle

Reviews

GRENADA - TWO BOOKS

Grenada: Revolution, Invasion and Aftermath. Hugh O'Shaughnessy. Sphere Books 1984 258pp £2.95

Grenada: The Struggle Against Destabilisation. Chris Searle. Writers and Readers 1983 164pp £3.95

Chris Searle: 'How has the Revolution managed continually to beat back destabilising mischief, whilst other processes have failed?' Maurice Bishop: 'We have done this through our relations of total honesty with our people. We start from the basis that destabilisation can only really work when it is covered up, when it is operating under darkness.'

From beneath a cloak of political intrigue, hidden from the eyes of the people, slid the hands that were to open the doors to Grenada for US imperialism. US forces and those of its Caribbean connivers, remain vigilant, astride Grenada, ready to strike down any resurgence of the revolutionary movement that guided Grenada for four and a half years of liberation and achievement. These books may contribute to our understanding of the tragedy which befell the revolution, but that task remains secondary to the struggle to rid Grenada of the imperialist occupation forces. This is the precondition for transforming academic debate about mistakes or factions in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) into concrete lessons for renewed revolutionary advance in the Caribbean.

O'Shaughnessy's credentials are prominent in his book: journalist for the *Observer* and *Financial Times*, commentator for the BBC—and no doubt the publisher considers these advertisements guarantors for the objectivity of the book. All of these organs faithfully backed the lies about revolutionary Grenada fed them by the Pentagon. No wonder then that O'Shaughnessy has no conception of imperialism and sees events in Grenada, as in the rest of the Caribbean and Central America, as a consequence of Soviet Union and US rivalry. The struggle of the masses in this region is reduced to Soviet encroachment and conspiracy.

The same contempt for the masses is brought by O'Shaughnessy to his consideration of the history of Grenada's struggle for trade union rights and democ-

racy. He belittles Albert Marryshow and 'Buzz' Butler, leaders of the earlier twentieth century trade union and anti-colonial movement, persecuted by British imperialism. Grenada's revolutionary government is branded a 'Revolutionary Monarchy', astounding economic achievements are put down to managerial expertise and not the productive potential released in the people. Only the long-privileged bourgeoisie could have such a complacent attitude towards democratic rights and such a vain faith in administrative powers.

'The Split'

However, O'Shaughnessy's investigative talents are most enthusiastically deployed in a chapter he calls 'The Split', which attempts to trace the events leading up to the killing of Maurice Bishop, his comrades and Grenadian people by part of the People's Revolutionary Army on 19 October 1983. With philistine stereotypes he depicts two adversaries: Bishop, the cheerful philanderer, popular with the people but intellectually inferior to the rigorous 'Leninist par-excellence' Coard. This rubbish is reinforced by a selective list of formative influences upon Bishop: CLR James is emphasised, but Malcolm X, Marx and Castro are omitted. And, surely, a West Indian revolutionary who called his son Vladimir owed something to Lenin! To expect O'Shaughnessy to be able to write accurately about Leninism is tantamount to believing the Serpent on Paradise.

Cunningly, the British journalist intends to impart his own lesson from the Grenadian revolution. Through Coard's 'Leninism' 'Soviet political thinking had penetrated the party (NJM)'. The Soviet Union was responsible for the 'praxis of many features of Leninism in general, and "vanguardism" in particular'. By such means our sleuth has it: Lenin and the Soviet Union share responsibility for the killing of Bishop and the invasion and occupation of Grenada! Bravo! 'It would be good if these lessons were not lost on other parties in the developing world as they cast about for models of political development'. Have no fear Mr O'Shaughnessy they will not 'cast about' with the same sloppy disrespect for theory, history and democracy that you show in your book. The only valuable part of it is that which he did not write: the reproduction in full of Fidel Castro's magnificent 14 November Funeral Oration at the burial of the twenty four Cuban martyrs slain by US imperialism. That is a demonstration of Marxism-Leninism.



GRENADA

Revolution, Invasion and Aftermath

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

Intrigue

Lacking any understanding of imperialism, O'Shaughnessy is incapable of explaining the domestic and international forces which moulded the terrain on which the NJM fought to advance the revolution. For him it is solely a function of inner party disputes. In O'Shaughnessy's tale a Coard grouping in the NJM decided there was a 'crisis' in the revolution which they blamed on Bishop's style of leadership. The 'crisis' was to be solved by 'joint-leadership' between Bishop and the Deputy Prime Minister Coard. Bishop's resistance to this plan results in his death at the hands of the Coard usurpers, who then blithely challenge mighty imperialism, armed to the teeth with fine-sounding revolutionary phrases.

In the absence of adequate information it is impossible for us to pass any definitive judgement on the split within the NJM. However, we thoroughly endorse Fidel Castro's statement, 'No doctrine, no principle or position held up as revolutionary, and no internal divisions justifies atrocious proceedings like the physical elimination of Bishop and the outstanding group of honest and worthy leaders killed yesterday. The circumstances of the death of Bishop and his comrades must be clarified, and if they were executed in cold blood the guilty ones must receive exemplary punishment.' That justice is the right of the Grenadian people and their right alone!

The day after Maurice Bishop and his comrades died, the Revolutionary Military Council is reported as announcing that 'Maurice Bishop and his other petty bourgeois and upper bourgeois friends had deserted the working class and working people of Grenada'. We reject the notion that Maurice Bishop was a petit-bourgeois. In so far as this statement reflects any of the political issues involved it concerns the relationship between the working class and the petit-bourgeoisie in the national democratic revolution. The NJM and working people ruled Grenada in an alliance with sections of the petit-bourgeoisie, and sought to reach agreements and alliances with social democratic parties abroad. Only a committed suicidal, appalled at reality and heedless of the balance of class forces within Grenada and abroad would reject the means and need for such alliances against imperialism. They are vital to the national democratic revolution and as such the necessary part of the advance to socialism. No bright shiny principles can ever triumph over the common sense and feeling for the tempo of the revolution of the masses.

Destabilisation

Chris Searle's excellent book was concluded just before the death of Maurice Bishop and the invasion. It contains an interview with Bishop conducted shortly before his death. Accurately, but in additional senses he could not see, Bishop described it as 'an extremely valuable book that will serve a critical function'. Had there been an anti-imperialist movement worth its name in Britain and the USA, there would have been no invasion, and imperialism would have had immense difficulty in destabilising Grenada, and the party disputes within the NJM would have been conducted over different matters and in different ways.

Searle details the history of murder, arson, bombings, kidnappings, threats, intimidation, manipulation, betrayal and all manner of evil done in the name of the

BARREL OF A PEN

Barrel of a Pen: Resistance to Repression in Neo-Colonial Kenya. Ngugi wa Thiong'o. New Beacon Books, 1983, 103pp £2.95

In the essay 'Freedom of the Artist', Ngugi muses teasingly, 'when I myself used to write plays and novels that were only critical of the racism in the colonial system I was praised...[when] I started questioning the very foundations of imperialism and of foreign domination I was sent to Kamiti Maximum Security Prison'. After reading this book one cannot be surprised he was sent there. *Barrel of a Pen* is typical Ngugi, straight from the hip, the bullets are right on target. The message is clear: imperialists and your lackeys beware — Six Gun Ngugi is on your trail.

The book is a collection of essays mostly about the struggle for real cultural and political freedom in Kenya. The first essay 'Mau Mau is coming back' makes it clear that freedom is yet to be attained despite the fact that Kenya was given independence in 1963. During the fifties and sixties, when most British colonies 'negotiated' their independence, the British ensured that certain minimum conditions had to be met before independence could be granted. The colonies were allowed, by courtesy of the British imperialists, to provide: full protection of British investments and property, a pro-Western ruling clique, a flag, some hotels, and at least one airport (except in the case of Grenada!). Having guaranteed their own position by conceding to British demands, after independence the ruling cliques set about the daily business of enriching themselves. This could only be done at the expense of the mass of the population. Kenya is a prime example of the British manipulated decolonisation process. Ngugi shows how, over a thirty year period — between October 1952, when the Mau Mau war for national independence started, and October 1982 just after a bloody attempted coup which left a conservative figure of 1,000 people dead — decolonisation and independence has in reality turned into re-colonisation and almost total dependence on the British and other

western powers that the Kenyan people had bravely fought to break away from.

Ngugi is well aware of the exploitation of women; they are doubly oppressed. He argues, 'as suppliers of labour in colonial and neo-colonies they are exploited as women they suffer under the weight of male prejudices in both feudalism and imperialism'. The essay 'Women in Cultural Work' is a tribute to the heroic role women have played and continue to play in the struggle for true liberation in Kenya. Women such as Me Katili who in 1919 helped organise the armed resistance against the British; and Mary Nyanjiri who in 1922 led a group of people to demand the release of Harry Thuku, workers' movement leader. She and 10 others were massacred by British forces.

'Writing for Peace' is a mark of Ngugi's versatility as a revolutionary writer. He does not restrict himself to the liberation of Kenya or even Africa; imperialism is an international enemy, it must be fought wherever it raises its ugly head. Nuclear war is a threat to the world, how can that threat be reduced and eliminated? How can a permanent peace be attained? A conservative approach favours 'peace' through the preservation of the status quo. This is 'peace' erected on slavery and it is peace only to the oppressor class or nation. It is apparent that such 'peace' is not peace at all but a recipe for war. Yet it is the kind of peace the military of the Pentagon are more than happy to support, as their dealings with the most oppressive states in the world, South Africa and Israel, indicate. There can only be one path to peace, the radical path, 'this calls for a total transformation of the systems of inequality and oppression in every nation and between nations'. Ngugi argues. Looking at the present state of the world, who as a revolutionary could disagree with him? Overall the essays in the book are enlightening, giving a new view on aspects of Third World culture that is not explored often enough. It is the work of a revolutionary who is committed without being inflexible, humorously aware of the serious nature of the task. In his own words, 'The spirit of Mau Mau is coming back'.

Shujaa Moshesh
Black prisoner serving 18 years

ANTI RACIST MUSIC

Music is a powerful weapon. It inspires, informs — and entertains! Yet for too long, the only records that get sufficient air-play on the western media are those with a (normally) good beat and vacuous content.

Too many British young people are misled into thinking that music is for entertainment, nothing else; and too many musicians prostitute their talent to conform to this empty strategy.

At long last it seems as though the tides are turning and here are some recent releases to back this up.

'Free Nelson Mandela' by the Specials. AKA is a catchy, SKA-type number with smooth lyrics imploring the barbaric Apartheid regime to release the leader of the South African people whose heroic struggle against oppression led to him being incarcerated for the past 21 years in inhuman conditions.

In my opinion, the best thing about this record (which has already received wide acclaim) is that the message does not end once the record is off the turntable. The accompanying sleeve-notes give a brief but explicit account of who Nelson Mandela is and the barbaric reality of Apartheid. It also urges the listener/reader to contact the Anti-Apartheid Movement and ends with Mandela's heroic statement from the dock in 1964:

'...I have cherished the ideal of a free and democratic society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.'

For me, the accompanying video is a disappointment — a night club with a group of young people dancing while the band performs the song — I find it sad that the band seems to have diluted the message in order to be 'more acceptable' to the British media.

Having said that, any good record which draws attention to the fascist regime in South Africa, its imperialist backers and the liberation struggle helps to motivate people in this country into finding out what THEY can do about it is a good enough start!

Malcolm X - NO SELL OUT

The message is clear! If we are to defeat oppression there must be NO compromise, NO sell out! Opportunists, take heed!

This record is unique — it uses original excerpts from Malcolm X's speeches in the 'sixties dubbed over a harsh, scratched/funk base. It leaves you in no doubt as to who Malcolm X was, his fight against American racism and imperialism and why he was brutally assassinated by them in 1965.

This has not received as much air-play as the Specials' single, presumably because it does not compromise — the video is stark — in the space of four minutes it catalogues brutal American oppression of black people — and the message is as relevant today as it was 19 years ago. THERE MUST BE NO SELL OUT!
Dramme

of the revolution went to the people had made them, the masses. Yet imperialism took another toll on the NJM. The socialist movement so weak and with chauvinism in the imperialist nations, many of the NJM's best cadres to be posted abroad in High Commissions and embassies, building the solidarity with the revolution against imperialism that was and is the duty of socialist those imperialist countries. The destabilisation, combined with the and the need to counter economic damage by travelling the world in search of assistance to supplement that of Cuba and the Soviet Union, built strain on the NJM Central Committee. O'Shaughnessy ignorantly refers to work as a result of lack of managerial expertise. Let the left which is so picking over the 'errors' it so clearly in the NJM and Grenadian revolution one tenth as much attention to a miserable debacle if it seriously were part of the movement towards socialism.

Forward!

In his book Chris Searle relates the stories and poems of the revolution reflected the hopes and dreams of a people that was filling their hearts with the imperiousness of a man catches the fire of the youth, began to see and grow the revolution, marched and freed Bishop from the invader, the youth who fought the invader, the youth who occupied. When the US invaded they beamed Beachcomber from the island. The youth who mimicked the California sun, the youth who grew into poets and unfolded into poems of the future of Grenada and the US and the Caribbean must them.

Imperialism out of Grenada!

Trevor Rayne

Those who sought to lead the revolution against the colonialist and imperialist forces were the first to be killed. London, 1982.

FREE STATE COLLABORATION

inbrief

The extradition of Dominic McGlinchey from the 26 Counties to the Six Counties on 17 March marked a major increase in the level of open collaboration between the 'Free State' and British imperialism.

Dominic McGlinchey was extradited because the courts denied the political nature of the charges that he faced in the North. The 26 Counties Extradition Act exempts 'political offences' from extradition. The Courts therefore have obligingly decided that involvement in military struggle to liberate the Six Counties is not political. McGlinchey first appealed against an extradition order in May 1982. His grounds for appeal were that the charges he faced in the North were political. This was rejected by the judge on the grounds that McGlinchey's appeal did not tell the judge about the aims and objectives of the IRA. In fact McGlinchey faced a catch-22 situation. If he did include evidence about the IRA he faced prosecution in the 26 Counties under the Criminal Jurisdiction Act (under which Irish citizens can be charged with offences committed outside the state). But if he did not include such evidence in his appeal he faced extradition to the North!

In McGlinchey's subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court the decision to extradite him was upheld. Chief Justice O'Higgins said that in order to gain exemption from extradition people must show that their political activity was:

'what reasonable, civilised people would regard as political activity'.

He went on:

'This court is invited to assume that because of the existence of widespread violence organised by paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, any charge which is associated with terrorist activity should be regarded as a charge in respect of a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence. I am not prepared to make any such assumption'.

In the event McGlinchey jumped bail and was on the run until his capture this year when he was handed over to the RUC with obscene haste.

This decision has set a precedent which affects many Republicans in the 26 Counties. At present three Republicans, Phil McMahon, Brendan Burns and Seamus Shannon face extradition on the grounds that the charges they face in the North are not political. All three are challenging the constitutionality of the legal rulings and a campaign has been mounted against the extraditions by the Republican Movement.

All Ireland judicial system

Not content with being able to extradite political prisoners to the North and imprisoning them in the South, the Special Criminal Court in the South intends to move north to hear evidence in a trial for alleged offences committed in the South. Seamus McShane and Damien Bird were arrested with Dominic McGlinchey and have been charged with the attempted murder of a policeman and possession of firearms. McGlinchey is a witness in the case and because he has already been extradited the judge said that the court would be prepared to move lock stock and barrel

to the North to hear his evidence. The court which is similar to the Diplock Courts in that there is no jury, is empowered to move across the border under the Criminal Jurisdiction Act.

The myth of a 'Free State' for the people of the 26 Counties is being replaced by the reality of a state freely allowing, and itself helping, imperialism to attack the struggle of the Irish people for self-determination. For Ireland to be truly free the reactionary neo-colonial state in the 26 Counties as well as the Six County state must be destroyed.

Chas Millington

IRA ATTACKS

April, which saw property and British army targets hit by IRA active service units, also marked the death of Derry Brigade IRA Volunteer Richard Quigley on Easter Saturday, 21 April. Volunteer Quigley, aged 20, was killed whilst taking part in an ambush of two British army jeeps.

Thousands turned out to mourn him and the youth of Derry placed black flags and Tricolours along the funeral route. Later, IRA Volunteers paid tribute to him,

'His whole life was devoted to the struggle to liberate Ireland. He never shirked an opportunity to engage the enemy and his courage and determination were total. Whilst we grieve for our fallen comrade, his death makes us all the more determined to continue our struggle.'

Two days later, on Easter Monday, the Derry Brigade launched an overwhelming ambush on two jeep loads of British troops. The jeeps were bombarded with petrol, flames engulfed them and Volunteers opened fire on the fleeing troops. One soldier was killed and several wounded.

On Sunday, 8 April, the IRA's Belfast Brigade opened fire on a member of

Northern Ireland's judiciary, Resident Magistrate Thomas Travers. Magistrate Travers was hit six times and critically injured. Whilst the shooting was being carried out his daughter was hit and later died from her wounds.

Also during April commercial premises were seriously damaged on 3 April in Newry and 23 April in Lurgan. On 15 April, the rebuilt and strengthened Andersonstown Barracks was bombarded, and on 20 April blast-bombs were used to devastating effect on Warrenpoint Golf Club, well-known haunt of Special Branch and used by the judiciary. Many attacks against the occupying forces were carried out and British soldiers injured. On 19 April an IRA Volunteer fired a single shot inflicting serious injury on a member of a British army foot patrol. Leaving their screaming colleague the patrol fled in a blind panic.

Pauline Sellers

PTA Arrests

On Monday 9 April journalists Eamonn McCann and Jim Humphries were held under the PTA at Birmingham airport, on their way to a journalists conference. Both were held for four hours before being released without charges. The police said they were checking them out! Yet last August McCann was held at Liverpool under the PTA. He is also well known to police as he was very active in the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association in the late '60's, was prominent in his support for the 1981 H-Blocks hunger strike, and is a well known liberal journalist. His 'detention' is just the latest attack on any journalist who reveals the truth about the British state.

Also arrested under the PTA was Geraldine Bailey, fiancée of Tommy Quigley who is on remand in Brixton jail. She had visited him and was picked up on Saturday 14 April. All her belongings were searched and she was strip searched including a degrading examination of her back passage. She was held without access to friends or lawyers and finally released on Sunday night.

Cathal

Informers

On Wednesday 2 May ten men, implicated by informer Robert Quigley, were meted out savage gaol sentences by Mr Justice Brian Hutton. The most vicious sentences were a 313 year sentence passed on James Doherty and nine life sentences passed on Charles Crumley. The trial began four and a half months ago on 21 January. Quigley, granted immunity for informing against his friends and former comrades, has slunk away into hiding. The ten Derry men, however, left the dock with clenched fist salutes shouting protests to the court. Still to come to court are those held on the 'evidence' of informers Raymond Gilmour and Harry Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick has sunk so low as to implicate his own sister, Michelle Dorrian - she is now in Armagh gaol whilst Kirkpatrick looks forward to release and a new life. These informers and perjurers will stop at nothing to betray the struggle of their countrymen and women for freedom.

Pauline Sellers

BRITISH DIRTY TRICKS

continued from page 1

contrast with the portrait of a superhero which they painted at the time of his death. The RUC maintain that Green was shot by a deranged Protestant called Elliot who was killed in 1979. They are going to these lengths to discredit the allegation because much is at stake. If Nairac murdered Green, it means that the British Army entered foreign territory (the Twenty Six Counties) and killed a man in cold blood. Moreover the gun and cartridges found at the scene of Green's murder have been conclusively linked with a series of sectarian murders which took place between 1973 and 1976. These include the murder of the Miami Showband - a Catholic band riddled with machine gunfire. Their murderers were members of the UDR. Holroyd's evidence is therefore dynamite, proving, as it does, the involvement of British forces in political assassinations in the Twenty Six Counties and the tie-up between British forces and loyalist murder gangs.

He also details a British Army attempt to discover the IRA's escape route for wounded or wanted men in Belfast. Their plan was to use 17 year old Columba McVeigh to infiltrate and discover the escape route. McVeigh was therefore planted with ammunition, raided and allowed to escape. Not knowing what to do, he wandered around Dungannon for a week even visiting the police station to seek further instructions! The Army finally picked him up and he was remanded to Crumlin Road jail. There, questioned by IRA prisoners, he gave them a list of names of people he alleged to be British agents. The list included the name of his milkman. The list was found by the British and Holroyd saw it. A month later a relief milkman doing McVeigh's milkman's round was shot dead. McVeigh was subsequently brought to trial on serious charges for which he was given an unprecedented suspended sentence. This publicly branded him as an informer and he went to Dublin to hide. He disappeared one day in 1975 and has never been heard of since. Holroyd discovered that the Army Sergeant responsible for all this was suddenly posted back to Britain when the RUC began trying to discover what had

happened to McVeigh.

Finally, Holroyd himself fell victim to a British Army dirty trick when in 1975 he became the object of rivalry between Intelligence Staff and the British Army. The Army apparently falsified evidence of mental instability against him and he was ordered into an Army hospital in Southampt. The trouble arose when senior Gardai invited him to Dublin to view IRA bomb making equipment. The Army officers forbade the trip but Intelligence staff ordered him to go, which he did. Hence the Army's dirty trick to get rid of him.

No doubt all this is embarrassing for the British government, Army and RUC. They claim to be 'investigating' (and no doubt busily discrediting Holroyd) the cases concerned. Whilst they are 'investigating', the same techniques of British terror continue unabated in Ireland. The recent acquittal of RUC constable John Robinson for the murder of Seamus Grew is a clear example. Robinson fired on Seamus Grew's car killing Roddy Carroll and then went to within three feet of Seamus Grew and shot him four times. During the trial Robinson admitted that a cover-up of this murder had taken place at senior levels of the RUC. The particular reason for this cover up was that a 24-man undercover group including RUC Special Branch and Army personnel was involved in the operation. Moreover part of this unit crossed into the Twenty Six Counties on the night of the murder. Nothing has changed since Holroyd's days. However this incursion having been made public, the Twenty Six Counties government had to ask for and receive an 'apology' from Britain. In fact British forces operate with impunity in the South. Recently a Free State spokesman admitted that between 1973 and 1983 British forces crossed the border no less than 680 times!

British governments have no regard for the law, no regard for human life and certainly no regard for borders which they themselves created. Yet recall their vitriolic response to recent events at the Libyan Embassy. How dare anybody else break the rules! British imperialism sets no limits to its own plunder and butchery. But the risen Irish people will not be beaten by murder, dirty tricks and covert operations. They fight on!

Maxine Williams

Irish Solidarity Movement

The Executive of the ISM agreed the following statement:

'On 9 February 1984 the ISM issued a letter to all Irish solidarity organisations calling for a single united democratically organised demonstration to commemorate the hunger strikers. This call was in response to the banning of the Bloody Sunday march in Sheffield. The ISM believed that the banning of the Bloody Sunday march was a serious setback which could be recovered from by a united mobilisation of all forces on a democratic and equal basis. The first meeting to discuss this proposal was on 6 March. The meeting was attended by SF, ISM, IFM, and IWSG. TOM stated that they were not coming as they would be supporting a Sinn Fein march in May. At the meeting SF comrades stated that there was no SF march but there would be an indoor evening rally organised by SF. All groups at the meeting agreed to consult further with their own organisations and report back on 21 March.

The second meeting was attended by ISM, IFM and Hemel Hempstead Trade Union Committee on Ireland. TOM stated they were not coming as they were 'confused'. In fact their Steering Committee had already decided (to quote their minutes) 'not to support this demo organised by ISM'.

It was by now clear that SF was not calling a march in May. It was also clear that it was not possible to proceed any further without knowing Sinn Fein's view. The three organisations present agreed to write to Sinn Fein asking for

their attitude to a united demonstration in May.

The third meeting on 3 April was attended only by the ISM. No reply to the letter to SF had been received. The IFM sent their apologies to the meeting. The ISM representatives obviously could not proceed with the meeting and decided to await any further response from Sinn Fein and/or solidarity organisations.

It is now undeniably clear that the other solidarity organisations are at best unwilling to initiate a united demonstration, and at worst actively hostile. The ISM will nevertheless continue to work for united action in the face of this sectarian indifference and hostility. We recognise that the consequence of this sectarianism is a banned Bloody Sunday march and no march at all to commemorate the hunger strikers.

When Bobby Sands was on hunger strike to the death he wrote:

'I am dying not just to attempt to end the barbarity of H-Block or to gain the rightful recognition of a political prisoner, but primarily because what is lost in here is lost for the Republic and for those wretched oppressed whom I am deeply proud to know as the "risen people".'

It is this spirit of resistance to British rule in Ireland that other solidarity organisations have decided will not be commemorated by a march this year.

The ISM will of course be supporting Sinn Fein's indoor commemoration and urging others to do so as well as holding local commemorative events of our own.

To date there has been no further response from any organisation and there-

fore only three years after the murder of the ten hunger strikers there will be no commemorative march in May.'

Bristol TOM

Bristol TOM has now been forced to disaffiliate from the ISM by the sectarian Steering Committee of TOM. The SC withdrew recognition of Bristol TOM before TOM's conference. The grounds were Bristol's affiliation to the ISM. The TOM conference passed a motion stating that membership of four organisations: RCG, RCP, IFM, ISM, was incompatible with membership of TOM. TOM now has therefore a list of proscribed organisations.

The ISM regrets the disaffiliation of Bristol TOM. We will continue to work fraternally and seek united work with TOM branches wherever possible.

Forthcoming ISM Events

Following the successful week of action in support of the right of repatriation of Irish prisoners in March, a further week of action is to be held from 4-10 June. Local activities throughout the week will culminate in a national picket of Gartree Prison on Sunday 10 June.

On 11 August an ISM delegation will go to Ireland to participate in events to commemorate internment. Those who are interested in joining the delegation should write to the ISM now.

Planning has already begun for major national ISM events in London in October. A national march and Conference is to be held.

Contact the ISM at: BM Box 1320, London WC1N 3XX

ROUND UP

●FRFI on Teeside

On Saturday 28 April 1500 people marched through the centre of Stockton. The theme of the march and rally, which was organised by the TGWU, was Peace, Jobs, Freedom and Pensions. The main speakers were Neil Kinnock, Jack Jones (Pensions) and Helen John (Greenham Women). Kinnock, in a long and tedious speech, was very cautious in his support for the miners strike despite the presence of a large contingent of miners from the Durham area. 38 copies of FRFI were sold and a few papers were also given away to the miners. The paper was received very favourably considering it was the first time that it had been sold on the streets of Teeside.

Graham, Stockton

●Save Thornton View geriatric hospital

FRFI supporters have been active in the campaign to save Bradford's Thornton View geriatric hospital which has been under threat of closure for over nine months. In July 1983, the Regional Health Authority voted to close it down, along with Shipley geriatric hospital, as part of a £5.5 million cuts package.

After all attempts to save the hospital had failed, staff decided to go into occupation. The hospital continues to run smoothly with no disruption to patients. Decisions are taken by the staff Occupation Committee, which are implemented with help from trade unionists and occupation supporters.

The closure of Thornton View would mean an early death for many of the hospital's seventy-nine patients. After the defeat of the occupation at London's St. Benedict's Hospital in 1980, 30% of the patients had died within six months of being moved. Health Minister, Norman Fowler, has now decided (last month) to keep Shipley Hospital open, while closing Thornton View. This makes the fight to keep Thornton View open ever more urgent!

FRFI urges all readers to actively support the occupation. If you can help, telephone the Occupation HQ on Bradford 882007 extn 47. Send donations, messages of support to Betty Elle, c/o Resource Centre, 93 Little Horton Lane, Bradford 5.

John Stephenson

●EISC pickets of Ken Maginnis

On Tuesday 24 April 16 supporters of Edinburgh University Troops Out Society and Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee mounted a militant and noisy picket of the University Students' Union where Ulster fascist Ken Maginnis was attempting to address a lunchtime meeting called by the Ulster Unionist Society.

Maginnis, formerly a major in the Ulster Defence Regiment is a leading advocate of shoot-to-kill, 'retaliation' and unrestrained terror of all kinds against the nationalist people. He is himself the Loyalist MP of the nationalist constituency of Fermanagh and South Tyrone which elected Bobby Sands and Owen Carron of Sinn Fein in massive turnouts. Fascist Maginnis got in at the General Election last year as the SDLP purposely split the nationalist vote to prevent another Sinn Fein victory.

The point of the picket was put across very directly by placards like 'loyalist mURDeRers/sectarian killers' and chants like 'Bobby Sands MP! Ken Maginnis murderer!' 'Victory to the Irish people! Troops Out Now!' Leaflets went out explaining EISC's campaigning work in solidarity with the Irish people, and addressing themselves to questions raised by the public.

Paul McKinlay

●Dundee Irish Solidarity supporter arrested

On Saturday 5 May Dundee Irish Solidarity Committee (DISC) organised a street meeting to commemorate the death of Bobby Sands in 1981. The street meeting went ahead very successfully. As it wound up to chants of Bobby Sands/Francis Hughes - We Remember! two policemen approached the comrades and demanded possession of a rubber bullet which had been displayed.

One comrade was arrested and detained under section two of the Scottish Criminal Justice Act and was told he was going to be charged with an offence under the Firearms Act. However, following protests, within 45 minutes the comrade was released without any charges.

Mike Taylor

Andy Higginbottom convicted

Andy Higginbottom, FRFI supporter, was convicted of obstruction on 3 May at Bow St Magistrates Court and fined £25.

He was arrested on a picket of the South African Embassy on 10 February organised by the City of London Anti Apartheid Group. The police claimed that Andy, who was stewarding the picket, led a 'surge' towards the embassy whilst Steven Kitson was doing a 'war dance' and crowds were looking on!

Inspector Waddington, who would surely have a job in the National Front if Thatcher didn't pay him so well, moved in to arrest Andy claiming that Sergeant A36 Gallagher was at his side. Photographs at the trial proved that Gallagher was nowhere near Waddington: in fact he was walking away, having just threatened to smash Steven Kitson's camera over his head.

Despite the evidence, the expert work of defence barrister James Wood and two 25-strong pickets of the court (supported by FRFI, CPSSA members and Kings Cross Women's centre) Magistrate Thompson convicted Andy giving no reason.

Recently the press have reported that following on from the

siege of the Libyan People's Bureau members of the government are seeking wide ranging restrictions on protests outside embassies. What none of them point out is that as far as the racist South African Embassy goes there are already many restrictions. City AA and FRFI supporters are continually harassed, arrested and barricaded off, as are those who picket the US Embassy! No restrictions are placed on the spying and terrorist activities of the South African Embassy.

The implications of the case for City AA and for Andy are serious given that he has two previous convictions for obstruction (for political reasons) and is now being framed by the same London 'A' Division for assault of a police officer (see FRFI 37). Thus we are determined that Andy should win the appeal he intends to lodge against conviction and be acquitted of the assault charge which comes up at 10am on 12 July at Bow St Magistrates Court. Many MPs and councillors have sponsored the campaign.

Please send donations and messages of support to: BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX Chris Fraser

●Rugby - Gret 'Ryghi' Apartheid? - Byth!

At 8am on 7 April some City of London AA group supporters met 40 National AA members to go to Cardiff and protest at the Welsh Rugby Union's shameful collaboration with Apartheid.

I sold the mere ten FRFIs I had with me before the march even started, and wish I'd taken more. Amos (12) sold 10 copies of Anti-Apartheid News... on his own. One thousand of us marched to Cardiff Rugby club handing out hundreds of leaflets to the delighted and enthusiastic people of Cardiff.

As we arrived at the Rugby club we saw the Rugby team leave the hotel and walk to the stadium - everyone broke ranks and rushed to the wall yelling and booing. Later we went down to the main gates of the Stadium and picketed there until the match started. Despite the hours of trying to reason with people I only saw one person tear up his ticket and come and join us on our side of the barrier, but this one person represented the many whose conscience must have been touched and who may respond later.

PEIDIWN CHWARAE AG APARTHEID.
Ann Mak

●Stop the strip searches

A great victory has been won by the Stop Police Strip Searching Campaign (SPSSC) which was set up after the arrest and strip-search of a young woman supporter of the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee, who was arrested for petitioning for the right of repatriation for Irish POWs in British gaols (see FRFI 36). The strong fight back organised by the SPSSC has resulted in the charge brought against Rhian being dropped.

Nearly 1000 signatures were gathered on a petition demanding an end to this degrading practice. We organised a picket outside a central police station. Letters of protest from all over the country were sent to the Procurator Fiscal and the Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders police. A delegation from the SPSSC went to the Lothian and Borders police board on 8 March. (International Women's Day) to present our demands.

The campaign has been a success in that it has exposed the widespread use of strip-searching by police. It has also proved again how organised fight back can beat the forces of the British state. Please send donations and letters to: SPSSC, c/o 1st May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

EVENTS

MAY/JUNE

IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

The Irish Solidarity Movement has affiliated bodies in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Southampton, Bristol, North, South and East London. The ISM can be contacted by writing to ISM, BM Box 1320, London WC1 3XX.

●MANCHESTER IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Meets fortnightly. For details contact MISC Box 47, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

●EDINBURGH IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

We are an active campaigning group organising education, discussion, street activities, public meetings, film shows and demonstrations. Meets weekly. Contact EISC c/o 1st May Bookshop, Box 110, Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.

●LEEDS IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Meets Tuesday 15 and 29 May at Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7 at 7.30pm.

ISM Week of Action

Right of Repatriation for Irish POWs

●EDINBURGH

Public Meeting Right of Repatriation for Irish POWs! Thursday 7 June at 7.30pm. For details contact Edinburgh ISC or your FRFI seller.

●SOUTH LONDON

Public meeting Right of Repatriation for Irish POWs! Thursday 7 June at 7.30pm. St Matthews Meeting Hall, Brixton Hill (nearest tube Brixton). Organised by South London ISC.

●MARKET HARBOUROUGH

National Picket of Gartree Prison For the Right of Repatriation for Irish Prisoners of War Sunday 10 June, Assemble 1pm Gartree Prison, Leicester Road, Market Harborough. (Transport from local areas is available: contact your local ISC.) Organised by Irish Solidarity Movement.

●LEEDS

Public meeting and film The Patriot Game. Tuesday 5 June 7.30pm. Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7. Organised by Leeds ISC.

GREETINGS TO IRISH POWS

The following Irish Republican prisoners have forthcoming birthdays. FRFI sends our greetings and asks readers to send birthday cards, preferably recorded delivery to ensure their arrival.

15 May Joe O'Connell 338635, HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5NX.
1 June Anthony Cunningham B0310 HM Prison Long Lartin, South Little Evesham, Worcs.
1 June Robert Campbell B32954, HM Prison, Hedon Road, Hull, Yorkshire.
19 June Con McFadden 130682, also Hull.

FRFI SUPPORTER GROUPS

FRFI supporters are active in local campaigns, Irish Solidarity Committees, anti-racist campaigns and other political struggles in DUNDEE, GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, LEEDS, BRADFORD, BRISTOL, AND LONDON. If you wish to join us in our activities, help us to build an anti-imperialist movement, contact your local seller to write to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX.

● DUNDEE meets fortnightly on Sundays starting 20 May at Dundee Trades Council Club, Rattray Street 7.30pm. Admission free.

● EDINBURGH meets fortnightly for political discussion, education and organisation. Next meetings Monday 14 May, Monday 28 May at 7pm Drummond High School, East of FRFI c/o 1st May Bookshop, Box 4 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.

Public discussion meetings on The revolutionary road to communism in Britain

Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group

- 1 Introduction: The revolutionary road to communism in Britain
- 2 The economic and political crisis of imperialism
- 3 The Marxist theory of crisis: capitalism and imperialism
- 4 Imperialism and the split in the working class movement
- 5 British imperialism: parasitic and decaying capitalism

Meetings in your area

MANCHESTER

- 1 Tuesday 15 May, 7.30pm
- 2 Tuesday 29 May, 7.30pm
- 3 Tuesday 12 June, 7.30pm
- 4 Tuesday 26 June, 7.30pm

All at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Slade Lane, Longsight, Manchester 12.

BRADFORD/LEEDS

- 1 Friday 18 May, 7.30pm Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount, Chapeltown, Leeds 7
- 2 Friday 1 June, 7.30pm Bradford Central Library Room 3, Princes Way, Bradford.

DUNDEE

- 1 Thursday 17 May, 7.30pm Meeting Room, Wallgate Library, Dundee

EDINBURGH

- 1 Tuesday 15 May 7.30pm Cross Winds Community Centre Tollcross, Edinburgh

LONDON

- 1 Tuesday 8 May 7.30pm
- 2 Tuesday 29 May, at 7.30pm
- 3 Tuesday 12 June, at 7.30pm
- 4 Tuesday 26 June, at 7.30pm
- 5 Tuesday 10 July, at 7.30pm

All at Freemason's Arms 81/82 Long Acre, WC1 (Nearest tube Covent Garden) Admission 50p waged, 25p unwaged. For further information contact FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX or your local FRFI seller.

Larkin publications

The revolutionary road to communism in Britain

Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group
Now published. Price £1.50 (+30p p&p)
175 pages

Ireland: the key to the British revolution by David Reed

Now published. Price £3.95 (+50p p&p) 450 pages



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How you can help with distribution:

A number of you have already sent in names and addresses of bookshops in your areas. Thank you for this useful information. Please let us know of any bookshops near you. We still need to have a lot more addresses if we are to reach country-wide distribution. If you can help by taking publicity material for the books into your local bookshop, we can provide this for you. This help is of vital use to us.

Another very important way you can help is by going to your local and/or university library to order the books.

THANKS FOR £3,362.19 WE ALMOST GOT THERE!

In the last issue of FRFI we appealed urgently for donations to come in for the Publications Fund. You, our comrades, supporters and friends answered that appeal with a tremendous show of solidarity.

£1,726.19 came in this month, including £1,000 from an anonymous supporter. This has given us a final figure of £3,362.19 and we have been able to pay the first printing bill.

We send you all our warmest thanks for your help. It has meant that already our two books are getting to hundreds of people all over Britain, Ireland, Africa, USA, Australia, Denmark and Germany.



Letters

Please note our address is, FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX. SEND US YOUR LETTERS. We welcome letters from readers but please keep them as short as you can.

Halal meat the debate continues

Dear FRFI,
I was rather annoyed at A M Hussain's letter re 'Halal meat'. I think that to 'lump' animal campaigners along with 'Fascists' and 'Racists' is absurd. No doubt (Fascists and Racists) could use this issue in Bradford for their own nasty pursuits but that does not mean there is not an issue at stake on behalf of animals.

Are people who care about animals automatically presumed to be (Fascist or racists)? I for one am very much for womens rights, but if I saw a woman mistreating an animal I could not and would not ignore the incident because she was a woman.

Ludicrous is it to condone the mistreatment of any animal regardless of who is doing it.

There are many 'unprotected' living creatures (human as well) in this world – it is only by people standing out on extremes sometimes that gets these issues noticed.

Cruelty and suppression is out. Long live the right to Live and Die peacefully.

Susan Spencer – Deetis Brockley, London

PS if Kathryn Reynolds is a fascist or racist I apologise if this letter seems to support her. It is not intended for that.

Dear FRFI,
I write to you concerning the issue of halal meat, which is under debate in your newspaper. I myself am from a very strict Muslim family, but, because of my personal belief in animal rights, I am a vegetarian.

The issue of halal meat is very important to Muslims, and it is one of the strongest and most important principles of Islam. To ban halal meat would have the same effect as to ban Muslims from eating meat altogether, as all true Muslims would rather die than eat non-halal meat. This of course amounts to an attack on the Muslim religion, as people of other religions will be able to eat meat as they wish, so it comes down to direct racism.

Halal meat is when the animal has its throat slit and bleeds to death to allow maximum drainage of blood. The animal must be conscious and aware of what is happening.

My opinion is that all efforts should be concentrated on banning blood sports, factory farming and experiments on animals. Only when these have been stopped should the issue of

'Banning all people from eating meat' be considered.
Anwar A Manchester

Dear FRFI,
I was disturbed on reading in the March issue, the letter by A M Hussain of Bradford on the issue of Halal meat. I would like to stress that the majority of people oppose the use of Halal meat because of the suffering this causes the animal in question; we are neither racists nor fascists.

However, it seems, as A M Hussain remarks that the animals are only too aware of what is happening.

I would appeal to all Muslims concerned to please consider the animals. If they are to be sentenced to death, we at least owe them a painless one.

Wouldn't it be acceptable to use a captive pistol which is far more humane and which (to my knowledge) does not conflict with the teachings of the Koran. Yours faithfully,
AM
Edinburgh

Fighting imperialism

Hello Comrades,
My name is Amos and my mum brought me to a bit of the action this month (City AAM March Month of Action). I marched the 8 miles from Hackney (Mare Street) 24 March. It rained a lot but I never felt cold because there were lots of us and myself and we chanted a lot like 'Barclays Bank out of South Africa! Smash Apartheid Now!'. I like that one it warms you up. I got lots of money in my plastic bucket, sometimes I even got money off white South Africans (as they hurried past with their fur coats on to get to their Rolls Royces) because I was so little and so wet. One old lady told me I was a very good boy and a great help which surprised me as usually when I am having so much fun someone is cross.

Today – Saturday 31 March – I took my mum to Wood Green (she is scared of the escalator on her own) and we was at the FRFI street rally and sold 305 FRFI and I sold badges and got lots of names on petitions and helped sing some Anti-Apartheid songs.

We wore our sandwich boards again, everybody wears them. Some say 'Free Mandela' or name other Political Prisoners and some say Barclays Bank

should stop being cruel to little babies in South Africa where they starve to death so rich white bankers can get richer. I can't say 'Fight racism fight imperialism' but I will fight it and at least I can spell it. Love from Amos (Aged 12)

Home Office victimisation

Dear FRFI,
I am an Iranian student who has been living in England and studying here for some years. As I would not be accepted at state schools I began my education at private school. When in 1979 the Iranian revolution began and Khomeini came to power, he did not allow any money to be sent out of Iran. So my father struggled to support me until last summer. After taking my O levels I was accepted at a college of further education as a non-fee paying student. Everything went well until I sent my passport to the Home Office for a renewal of visa. Then the college was sent a letter by the Home Office stating that I was not eligible for a home studentship, and should pay £4000 for the two year A level course. Immediately the college changed their word, agreeing with the Home Office, saying a new law was passed in June stating that any foreign students whose parents are not living in England and are alive is immediately counted as a foreign student, and has to pay the full fees, regardless of the number of years he has lived in Britain. Also the Home Office examined my bank account and informed the college of my financial status. The college say that they were not aware of this new law when they accepted me in September, which is hard to believe. The Home Office have still not returned my passport, they have kept it for seven months, usually it takes three weeks to renew a visa. And they know I cannot receive any money from my parents.

On contacting ILEA to see if they could help in any way I was advised to contact my MP. Later I learnt I was not the first student to suffer in this way. Colleges had accepted students in all good faith, and then turned around no longer accepting them as home students after they had already started at college. The advice I received from the student services at the college was to pay up immediately as it was not worth appealing. However I intend to continue my appeal through all existing channels, to fight this blatant racist attack not just against myself, but on all overseas students.

Ali Shams

Racism in schools

Dear Editor
Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! 'Reinstate Sri-Asokamala!' item I noticed a small item in the April 1984 issue of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! (on page 5) about the campaign to re-instate Sri-Asokamala. I do not myself know anything at all about the facts of this case. They may well be just as you report them. I just wanted to let you know that you are quite wrong to state that 'The GLC's Richmond Education Authority' took this decision – because the GLC has nothing whatsoever to do with it at all.

Richmond, as an outer London borough, is its own Education Authority and the decisions that it takes are entirely its own. Richmond is not, of course, a Labour-controlled Borough.

Could you please correct this in your next issue? Thanks. It would be wrong for you to imply that the GLC had sacked a black teacher when it hadn't.

For our part you might be interested to know that this ILEA administration has more than once refused to take the advice of our officers and sack black employees where we as Members had reason to believe there was evidence of racist treatment.

Meanwhile ILEA has now established an Equal Opportunities Committee which encompasses Afro-Caribbean and Asian representation – whose co-opted members onto individual ILEA sub-committees have a vote – as an integral part of our campaign against racism in our society.

As 1984 is the GLC's Anti-Racist Year perhaps you might include something in another issue about the continuing campaign against apartheid that the Labour GLC is waging: for example, by trying to withhold grant from the Sports Council if it allows the athlete Zola Budd to run at (the GLC co-financed) Crystal Palace Sports ground without using the circumstances to make a strong condemnation of apartheid.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Benn
ILEA Additional Member
Vice-Chair Staff Appeals Sub-Committee
Member's Lobby, The County Hall

Time to take a stand

Dear FRFI,
Congratulations with the RCG manifesto. I haven't finished it yet but I will do this weekend all being well.

As for the miners strike, well I think it's about time that the working class people made a final stand against the government and the police. I don't think they will get another chance because the way the police have harassed the miners is ridiculous, what next? ID cards. I can't see why the whole country isn't out with the miners in protest against the police behaviour. It would take 10 letters to express my feelings and it wouldn't do any good, I just wish I could give them my support.

I think the worst part must be the Wellingley miners, the way the police or some other officials asked them who they voted for and if they would vote for the communist party if it was just the CP and the Tories. How can they justify these questions, what right have they, it makes me sick. I'm afraid I would have had to refuse to reply to these questions but the miners didn't and I believe most said the CP if it was just the CP against the Tories. Isn't this what happened in Nazi Germany and hasn't this government always been anti-nazi, or so they say. I just hope people will see what it will be like if they bow down, they must make a stand and say NO MORE.

I think the unions are almost as bad, big plush offices, big cars, but I believe they can't afford to pay strike pay! 55,000 miners in Yorks pay £1.07 per week. There has been no major dispute since 1974, so where is the money? The miners deserve better than this, it's support they need not stained glass and fitted carpets. It must surely be time to form a new union, one that wants to give their members what they deserve not plush suites and big bank accounts, no doubt with a big fiddle some where along the line.

I've got about a dozen people wanting to read the manifesto, and the people that ask me if FRFI has come yet is getting out

of hand. It's a good job I'm not alone; you see in a way we have our own branch of the RCG here. Yours in Solidarity
Steve
HM Prison Wakefield

Democratic rights

Dear FRFI,
We see thousands upon thousands of police on the streets, trying to give the miners a bad time; hassle and road blocks. So people in this country cannot go on strike anymore or picket. If they do they will be arrested and are intimidated by the police and the courts. For what? The miners are fighting not just against pit closures, but their jobs and their future. Their wives and their kid's futures as well, and the country's future too. So they've got to win. And we all must give them all the support we can any way we can. As they, the miners, must not lose this one, if they do, we the people do as well. The miners, with the help of other unions can and did win in 1972 and 1974 against the then Tory government. Solidarity and Unity are the by-words today. Let not 1984 become another 1926. No sell-out this time. It was good to see people hit the streets of London in a mass demonstration. I believe in direct action and confrontation with the so-called law and order this kind of government makes. The government and the police over-react and then the people really will see them for what they are. As the only way the police can answer is by mass arrests and violence, that is the only way they know.

We see this today at Greenham Common against the Peace Women's peace camp. The police with the aid and the go-ahead of the Thatcher government moved against the peace women's camp and effectively destroyed it using 30 bailiffs and 300 police. But it remains the most famous protest in the world. Their sincerity and courage stood out. They were not sluts or haridans as the Daily Express said. They were the ones that care. If people don't like what their government is doing

they have a right to protest. The Greenham Peace women used that right. So what are the people going to do? Britain today is ruled by the police and courts. They talk about flying pickets, what about the flying policemen? Take care
Yours
M A Russell
HM Prison Wakefield

Castro's support

Dear FRFI,
Today I received my copy of your book *Ireland: the Key to the British Revolution*. I've only had time to dip into the book so far but I mentioned to you once before how much I enjoyed and benefited from the original articles and I'm glad now to have all the information at hand in one place in book form. I'd like to make one point about content. It is obvious that you miss very little information published about Ireland but I wonder do you know about Fidel's moving tribute to the hunger strikers that he made in the Autumn of 1981 (see enclosed card)? I ask this because (a) such a statement from such a world statesman needs to be brought to the attention of the public (b) there is a very good place in your text that you could have inserted it ie to strengthen your statement about international reaction to the British murders page 365 line 8.

Having said this I realise that sometimes you need to be brutal in selecting what to leave in and what to edit out and the book wouldn't be such a fine one without this judgement having been so well done throughout. I mention the speech in Havana just because it is confidence boosting to have confirmation of the kind of friends we have.

Now I'll get back to my reading.

Yours sincerely,
GD
West Lothian

Editorial Note

The issue of FRFI in which we reported Fidel Castro's speech on the Hunger Strike is: FRFI No 13 October 15 – November 15 1981. See also back page of this issue.

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FUND DRIVE APRIL: £397.36

From our April issue you know that the profits Barclays made on the backs of the oppressed black masses in South Africa rose by 51% in 1982 to £118 million, that the US military machine wants to spend US\$305 billion in 1985 to prepare for war, and that Heseltine is about to recruit 19,200 extra part-time soldiers at £270 million to keep down the oppressed.

FRFI only needs £500 a month to keep going its agitation against oppression and injustice. Yet last month, as in January, February and March, we did not get this. We were short by £100 in April. With a lot of hard work FRFI supporters raised £385.62 and our readers sent in £11.74. But we need your help to keep the paper at 20 pence so that not just those in employment and the better-off can read our views and about the fightback in Britain and internationally. Send your donation now. Ask your friends and relatives for a contribution to our work.

Street collections and fundraising events raised in North London £132.45, South London £61.78, Manchester £57.18, Edinburgh £48.97, Leeds £31.38, Dundee £27.17, Bradford £17.81 and Liverpool £8.88.

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HANDS OFF IRELAND

GARDAI PROTECT PUSHERS

In Dublin the working class communities continue to mobilise against the heroin pushers in their areas. However, they now have to deal with another threat – the Dublin Government and the Gardai (police) have mounted a campaign against the Concerned Parents Against Drugs Committees.



REPUBLICAN NEWS

something to do with the huge sums of money which can be made in these difficult times for the capitalist entrepreneur from the importation and sale of heroin. The street value of 1kg of heroin is about £2m Irish and £1.5m British. The big pushers are not the dealers in working class areas but the 'respectable' businessmen living well away from the misery they create.

Maggie Lindsay

BRITISH TERROR

Over the past months the forces of British imperialism have continued to terrorise the nationalist people with shootings, beatings, curfews and house raids. In the Moyard area of West Belfast early on 23 February the British army shot Harry McGreevy as he walked home. McGreevy had to undergo two operations to remove the bullet fragments in his neck. Needless to say, no British army officer has been charged with the shooting.

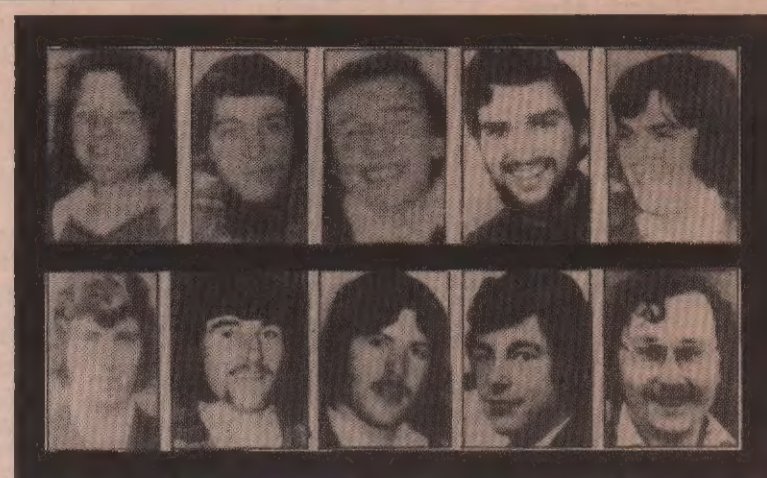
On 20 February two nationalists were stopped at an army checkpoint in Fermanagh; when Noel Lynch protested about army harassment he was punched to the ground. His friend, Pearse O'Neill, went to help and was smashed in the face with a rifle butt. His wound required nine stitches.

Recently, on 20 April, Colette and Sean Stanton were attacked by the RUC in a Chinese take-away. Both were arrested; Sean was assaulted and lost one tooth and needed stitches to his face; Colette suffered assault and sexual abuse whilst in RUC detention. The next day the RUC viciously assaulted two women in Dunloy, North Antrim. Margaret Hogan, sister of volunteer Henry Hogan who was killed in action in February, and Mary O'Neill were arrested on a sponsored walk. They were held for two hours, abused and informed that they would be charged with the assault of three RUC men.

In Belfast, during February and March, raids in nationalist areas escalated, as the RUC and British army smashed their way into people's homes. On 10 February two such raids took place. In the case of James and Ann Kelly they were arrested under the PTA, causing their son to suffer an epileptic fit. Margaret Walker's home was surrounded by four Army Saracens and three landrovers, then she and her five children were held captive for four hours whilst their home was vandalised. The next day, Seamus Kelly and his wife were held under the PTA in Castlereagh torture centre for four days after a raid on their home.

On the 17 February five homes on the nationalist estate of Lenadoon, West Belfast were broken into at midnight by plainclothes RUC men who used sledgehammers to smash down the doors. In Ann and Arthur McFarren's home they held guns to their heads. A month later, 18 March, the RUC rendered the home of Michele Rea uninhabitable. When she complained to the RUC she was arrested and held for five hours and death threats issued against her fiancé. The RUC also smashed their way into the MacAirt Community Centre. The RUC thugs held elderly people at gunpoint whilst they rampaged through the Centre. Harassment of Sinn Féin members was stepped up with raids on the homes of two Sinn Féin workers on 17 April. Seamus McNaughton and Seamus McMahon were arrested, questioned about Sinn Féin activities and plans, then released the following day.

Alan James



REMEMBER THE HUNGER STRIKERS

Fidel Castro's speech at the opening session of the 68th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Havana, 15 September 1981

'In speaking of international politics, we cannot silence what is happening in Northern Ireland; I feel it is my duty to refer to this problem. In my opinion the Irish patriots are writing one of the most heroic chapters in the history of mankind. They have earned worldwide respect and admiration and likewise deserve the fullest support. Ten of them have already died in the most moving gesture of sacrifice, selflessness and courage one could ever imagine. Mankind should feel ashamed that this terrible crime should be committed before its very eyes. These young fighters do not ask for independence nor make impossible demands to put an end to their strike; they ask only for something as simple as the recognition of what they actually are: political prisoners. The men for whom we ask the solidarity of this Conference are neither marxist-leninist nor communist; they are militant Catholics. How can such a cold and dramatic holocaust be tolerated in the very heart of the Western world?... The stubbornness, intransigence, cruelty and insensitivity of the British Government before the international community concerning the problem of the Irish patriots and their hunger strike till death remind us of Torquemada and the atrocities committed by the Inquisition during the Middle Ages...

Let tyrants tremble before men capable of dying for their ideals after sixty days of hunger strike! What were Christ's three days on Calvary, an age-old symbol of human sacrifice, compared to that example?

It is high time for the world community to put an end to this repulsive atrocity through its denunciation and pressure.'

FOOL'S FORUM

The New Ireland Forum, popularly known as the Fool's Forum, has finally produced its report. After 11 months and 97 meetings the Forum report has met instant rejection from the British government, the Unionists and the Republican Movement – no mean feat that!

The report sets out three possible constitutional arrangements for Ireland – a unitary state, a federal state, joint government by Britain and Ireland over the Six Counties. It is said that Haughey strongly favours the unitary state and had within an hour of signing the report clashed with FitzGerald and the SDLP who are less keen. Haughey's united Ireland stand will fool nobody and is merely designed to maintain his posture as a Nationalist. Those who recall the vicious attack on Republicans which took place when he was Premier know just what a fraud this is.

All the parties in the Forum – Fine Gael, Fine Fail, the Irish Labour Party and the SDLP – insisted that whatever constitutional arrangements were adopted they had to be with the consent of the loyalists in the Six Counties. Moreover all of them rejected any methods, other than peaceful and constitutional methods of bringing these changes about. Since neither British imperialism nor its loyalist allies will listen to peaceful, constitutional protest this conclusion is, like the Forum report itself, worthless.

The Forum excluded the majority of Irish people from it – Sinn Féin, IRSP, the trade union movement, the unemployed. It excluded all those opposed to British rule in Ireland. It was set up as a desperate attempt to shore up the partitionist bloc against the military and political successes of the Republican

Movement. It was particularly intended to boost the flagging fortunes of the SDLP.

The real concerns of the participants were made clear in the report:

'Constitutional politics are on trial and unless there is action soon to create a framework in which constitutional politics can work, the drift into more extensive civil conflict is in danger of becoming irreversible, with further loss of life and increase in human suffering. The consequences for the people in Northern Ireland would be horrific and it is inconceivable that the South and Britain could escape the serious threats to stability that would arise.'

All the participants in the forum are horrified by the growing successes of the Republican Movement in the Six Counties. The Southern politicians are also aware that as poverty and unemployment rise in the Twenty Six Counties the dispossessed will turn to the nationalist struggle to defeat British imperialism and its neo-colonial agents. And whilst pontificating about constitutional changes the Southern politicians have in reality put all their efforts into bringing their repressive apparatus into greater collaboration with British imperialism.

Maxine Williams

EEC BACKS BRITAIN

The EEC parliament has once again shown where its true allegiance lies – with the rotten, barbaric imperialist system. On Thursday 19 March debate was taken on the Haagerup report – an 85-page report on Neil Haagerup's 'fact-finding trip' to Northern Ireland. His 'fact-finding' did not extend to Sinn Féin – he refused to meet them – showing true EEC 'impartiality'!

Coupled with the report was the Haagerup motion which, in almost unintelligible EEC-speak, backs Britain's continued occupation of Ireland. The only concrete amendments to the motion, tabled by Alf Lomas MEP and Richard Balfe MEP, condemned civil rights violations in Northern Ireland; called for the return of trial by jury; the granting of the right to repatriation for Irish prisoners in English gaols; and the end to strip-searches in Armagh prison. The Irish Solidarity Movement provided Alf Lomas with much of the background information concerning Irish prisoners. The EEC threw these out; the Haagerup motion was passed; and another rotten motion inscribed on the EEC statute book.

The Council of the European Communities did not even dare to answer de-

tailed and specific questions put by Alf Lomas on human rights for prisoners held in solitary confinement. The 'reply' was as follows:

'Prison systems are the responsibility of the individual Member States.'

It took them five and a half weeks to draft that one sentence! In a letter to the Irish Solidarity Movement Alf Lomas summed it up:

'If I had been questioning prison systems in East European countries I would have had a long detailed reply, but because it is inside the EEC they avoid the issue.'

When it comes to humanity and justice for the oppressed the EEC parliament stands condemned along with Britain.

Pauline Sellars